



# AGAWAM Advertiser-News

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Agawam Public Library  
750 Cooper St  
Agawam, MA 01001

# 55¢

Volume XIX Number 2

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

January 11, 1996

## New Town Council Sworn-In



MEMBERS OF THE 1996-97 Agawam Town Council are sworn-in by Town Clerk Richard Theroux (right). From left are Councilors Joseph Langone, Dennis Perry, George Bitzas, David Skolnick, Nancy Thompson, Jill Simpson, Kent Servis, and Chris Quatrone. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Power Plant Going To Court To Overturn Permit Denial

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

The controversy sparked by the plan to site a power plant in Agawam's industrial zone is in the hands of a judge, but the state may have the final say.

As predicted by Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Ronald Hebert, a judge will decide whether a special permit should be granted to allow a 252 megawatt, gas-fired power plant to be built on Moylan Lane in the Agawam Industrial Park by Berkshire Power.

Within hours of the release of the minority opinion denying a special permit from the ZBA, Berkshire Power filed an appeal in Hampden County Superior Court challenging the split decision.

"We do not agree with the minority findings of the ZBA and we are exercising the rights which are allowed to us under the law," said Berkshire Power Project Director Kenneth Roberts. "These are the same rights that would be available to project opponents if they disagreed with the Board."

The court's decision is expected within a matter of months, but that may not be the final word on the subject. Two state agencies may eventually decide if a power plant will be built in Agawam.

The state Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) has the authority to override local zoning decisions if it is determined that a power plant being proposed would serve the public good, and the

Department of Public Utilities can totally exempt a utility from the local permitting process.

Roberts said his company plans to go through the court appeals process while moving forward with the permitting process at the EFSB.

"From day one, we have said we wanted to go through the local permitting process to address local concerns, which is why we did not go with the exemption process in the beginning."

On January 2nd, the ZBA voted 2-1 in favor of the special permit to allow structures higher than 40 feet on the site.

A unanimous decision is required for the granting of a special permit.

### Subject To A List Of 47 Conditions...

Hebert and ZBA member Doreen Prouty issued a majority opinion in favor of granting the special permit subject to a list of 47 conditions intended as "safeguards and controls to protect the immediate neighborhood and the town as a whole."

The minority opinion written by ZBA member Raymond Gendron finds the specific site, located in an area of residences, banquet and entertainment facilities, a health care nursing home, and commercial facilities, is not an appropriate location for such structures as a smokestack, cooling tower, oil storage tank, and water storage tank all in excess of 40 feet.

SEE GOING TO COURT - Page 2...

## Kids Stay Home... DPW Wages Long Battle Against Snow

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

The town's Department of Public Works will be seeking additional funding in the amount of approximately \$140,000 to cope with snow removal costs in a season that had already seen more plowable snow events than last year before storms Fred and Ginger dumped 30 more inches of snow on town streets in less than a week.

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson said he would submit a request for the transfer of funding to the DPW at the town council's January 16th meeting.

In a report for the council released on January 2nd before Storm Fred added 11 inches of snow to the season's tally and Storm Ginger was but a blip on the radar screens of weather forecasters, Johnson said the overtime account for DPW employees and the hired plow accounts were nearly depleted.

The next day, Storm Fred wiped out the remaining funding for the DPW overtime and hired plowing that the town relies on to deal with snow events.

Four days later, Ginger tap-danced across the eastern seaboard closing airports, municipal offices, schools, post offices, and businesses in the third largest snowstorm on record for Western Massachusetts.

In Agawam, the blizzard closed municipal offices for one day; schools were closed for two days as DPW crews labored to clear the streets, school entrances, and the sidewalks used by the 500 children who walk to school.

Storm Fred cost the town an additional \$35,200 in snow removal costs, and Storm Ginger cost the town \$44,500 to remove the snow accumulated over a 28-hour period.

SEE SNOW - Page 2...

## Plans Still Underway For Inaugural Night For Town Officials

The plans are being made for the 1996 Inaugural Celebrations to be held at The Oaks, located at 1070 Suffield Street in Agawam.

The date will be January 26, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. A Social Hour will start the evening. There will be a mock swearing-in ceremony for the Mayor, Town Council, and School Committee members. Hors d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner will follow.

Music will be provided by Rocko, The D.J. for your dancing pleasure throughout the evening.

The cost of this event is \$18 per person. If you would like to be a sponsor of this event, a \$50 donation will entitle you to two tickets to the celebration and a sponsor listing in the event program.

Please send ticket orders to the Inaugural Committee, c/o Mayor's Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001 or call Jennifer in the Mayor's Office at 786-0400, ext. 201.

Please make check's payable to the "Agawam Inaugural Committee."



## GOING TO COURT - from Page 1...

Due to conflicting testimony and reports dealing with the effect the plant would have on property values, Gendron could not make a finding as to whether or not the plant would adversely affect property values. But he did find that the high volume of truck traffic during periods when the oil and water storage tanks would need to be replenished would cause "a nuisance or potential hazard to vehicle or pedestrian safety."

Gendron concluded that the smokestack, cooling tower, and oil storage tank "is so objectionable that its use would be against the public interest and/or detrimental to the character of the neighborhood as no other facility in the area has any of the above factors."

At presstime, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, a staunch supporter of the plant, said he had not had a chance to review Gendron's opinion.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed with the minority decision, but I don't question his right to dissent from the majority," Johnson said.

In ruling on Berkshire Power's appeal, the judge has a number of options, including sending the case back to the ZBA, upholding the minority decision, or granting the special permit subject to some, all, or none of the conditions included in the majority decision, Johnson said.

"The majority of the board wanted the judge to know there is a majority opinion and that it includes conditions," Johnson said.

Johnson said town Solicitor Thomas Locke would represent the majority of the ZBA in court, and Assistant Solicitor Charles Sciafani would represent the minority.

Roberts said he remains confident that the plant will be permitted and will be built in Agawam.

"We have no plans to go to our secondary site (in Southwick) at this time," Roberts said.

**Please remember that our deadline is every Tuesday at noon. We open at 6:30 a.m. Thanks.**

## SNOW - from Page 1...

DPW crews were called into action to begin sanding and salting operations on Sunday, January 6th. Some employees worked for 40 hours straight in the clean-up effort.

On Tuesday, January 9th, DPW Superintendent John Stone said the roads were passable, but DPW crews would likely be back on the job pushing snowbanks back in an attempt to widen the streets narrowed by the volume of snow.

"We're running out of places to put the snow," Stone said. "Hopefully, we will get some warmer weather to break up the ice-pack on some streets."

Stone said that while his funding for salt and sand was adequate for the rest of the season, deliveries of salt were lagging behind previous years.

"We have some salt and sand mixture on hand," Stone said. "But this year's low bidder on the county's salt contract is having trouble getting deliveries to us in a timely manner."

**Few Problems With Cars Parked On The Streets**

Stone said snow removal crews encountered few problems with cars parked on the streets as townspeople complied with the parking ban for the most part.

Stone called on residents to assist the DPW in digging out the 1,400 fire hydrants scattered across the town. Stone said DPW crews would be working to dig out the hydrants, but it would help if residents who know where the hydrants are

located would clear away the snow from hydrants near their homes.

In addition to wiping out snow removal funds, the latest storm wiped out the five snow days built into the school calendar.

Superintendent of Schools Bernard F. Ryder praised the DPW for their snow removal effort, but conditions on secondary streets and sidewalks along the main streets where children walk to school forced the closing of schools on Tuesday.

"The DPW did such a good job on the streets, there wasn't time to shovel out the school entrances and driveways due to the intensity of the storm," Ryder said.

Ryder said if any more school days are cancelled, he would begin negotiating with the teachers' union to make up the time. Ryder said would recommend extending the school calendar at the end of June before opting to cancel the winter and spring vacations.

Ryder said his experience with cancelling a scheduled mid-winter break before coming to Agawam convinced him to look for other options first.

"The students and staff were extremely worn out and tired due to the straight run from January to April," Ryder said. "I was amazed at the strain, both mental and physical."

By state law, schools must complete 180 days of instruction time before July 1st. With schools scheduled to close on June 21st, there are five days left in June as possible make-up days before the July deadline.

## Agawam's City Ordinance Regarding Snow And Ice Removal From Sidewalks

This is a reminder that snow and ice has to be removed from sidewalks after a snowstorm. The Agawam City Ordinance No. 155-10 states in part:

*The tenant or occupant and, in case there is no tenant or occupant, the owner or persons having the care of any estate abutting upon any street, lane, court or square within the town where there is a sidewalk which now is established or set apart as such, shall remove, within twenty-four (24) hours after ceasing to fall, any snow and/or ice thereon.*

*No persons plowing, pushing or shoveling snow or ice from private parking lots, driveways or sidewalks in or*

*upon any street or public way shall leave any ridge of ice or snow or other debris upon such public way as to cause hazardous or dangerous conditions.*

*Any person violating any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine.*

The Agawam Police Department has been receiving complaints that some sidewalks are not cleared. This is causing a problem for pedestrians who are forced to walk in the roadway. Even the school children who do not walk to school must use the sidewalks to get to their assigned bus stops.

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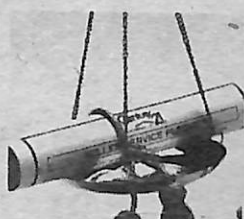
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Source: 1992 Nationwide Survey of Homeowners. This survey included 1,541 telephone interviews with a random sample of homeowners from throughout the USA and was conducted during October 2-12, 1992. The Western Group, a leading survey research organization. The results from the survey have a 95% confidence interval of +/- 2.5%. Homeowners were asked: "Suppose for a moment you were going to sell your home, which real estate sales organization would you be most likely to use to help sell your home?" EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED. Equal Housing Opportunity.



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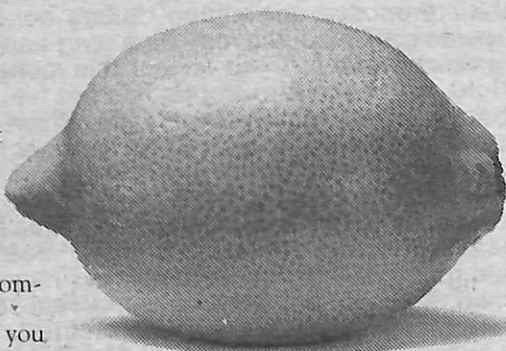
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Property Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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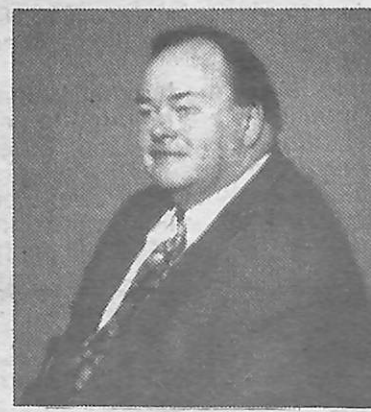
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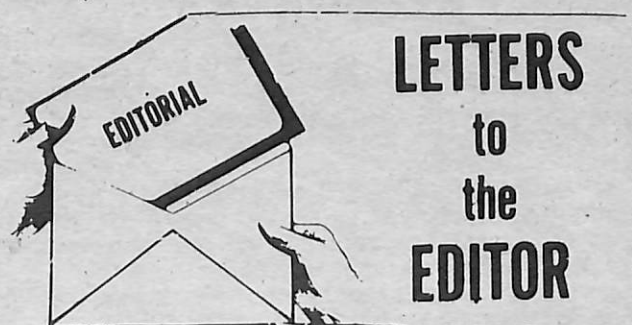


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## Open Pantry Offers Thanks For Support During Holidays

### To The Editor:

On behalf of the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry, I wish to thank the Agawam and Feeding Hills communities for their generous and caring support this past holiday season. We were able to fulfill each request for toys, warm hats and mittens, food, and personal care items.

Feeding Hills Congregational Church, the Catholic Women's Club, Hood's Ice Cream, Milton Bradley, Totsy, Hallmark, Lego, American Express, and United Society made very generous donations to our Children's Party.

Agawam Congregational Church, Sacred Heart and St. Theresa's Parishes, Don's Deli of Chicopee, Cerrata's Pastry Shop, and First United Methodist Church donated food, gifts, and personal care items to our Christmas Eve Dinner.

And, certainly sincere thanks to all the individuals, businesses, churches, and civic organizations who made financial donations to ensure the continued success of the Pantry. Altogether, it made for a very happy Christmas for many families.

Sincerely,  
Diane Crowell, Executive Director  
West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry

## BP's "In Lieu Of Tax" Deal Should Not Be Considered

### To The Editor:

There has been a lot of talk lately about the proposed "in lieu of tax" deal that Berkshire Power has made to the Town of Agawam. I'd like to take a moment to discuss this proposal with the following question in mind.

Should any business or industry be able to negotiate an "in lieu of tax" deal at all? I will use the Berkshire Power proposal as an example of why this type of deal should not be considered.

We have all heard that Berkshire Power has proposed that they will pay \$800,000.00 per year to the Town in lieu of tax plus an additional \$200,000.00 to be used for schools, etc. They further propose that these payments will start once the plant is in operation (in approximately four to five years), and they propose that these payments will increase each year by three percent.

What has not been made clear to most people is that these payments will be made "in lieu of," and this means INSTEAD OF, real estate tax and personal property taxes.

It has been argued that if Berkshire Power were required to pay real estate tax that it would only amount to approximately \$200,000.00 per year, as most of the facility would be considered personal property.

What is not made clear is that all businesses and industries are required to pay tax on the personal property that the business needs to operate. In the case of Berkshire Power, their personal property could well be assessed at \$176,000,000.00, which would normally be subject to taxes at the rate of \$20.93 per thousand dollars.

It has also been argued that Berkshire Power would be able to depreciate this personal property over 20 years, and that because of this depreciation the "in lieu of tax" payment is a good deal.

What is not made clear is that over that 20-year time period, if Berkshire Power were to be required to pay normal and regular real estate tax and personal property tax (as all other businesses in Agawam are required to pay), the Town would collect as much as **SIXTEEN MILLION DOLLARS MORE** than under the proposal of one-million dollars per year in lieu of these taxes that has been offered. I have sent my figures as part of this letter so that they can be reviewed.

It could also be argued that at the end of the 20-year period that there would be no personal property tax left to be paid. What is not made clear is that Berkshire Power would need to invest additional monies through these years or at least at the end of the 20 years to update and replace much of this "personal property" in order to continue to run the plant effectively and efficiently, and that this additional equipment would then be subject to tax.

There is one additional problem with this type of "in lieu of tax" proposals and that is if a business, industry, or private citizen fails to pay their real estate or personal property taxes, the town has the right to seize the property for failure to pay the tax. However, if Berkshire Power fails to pay their proposed one-million dollars per year, the Town's only recourse may be a long and very costly court battle to try to collect this money.

In light of the above example, I do not feel that any business or industry should be allowed to negotiate and/or make alternative payments to the Town of Agawam in lieu of paying actual real estate taxes and/or personal property taxes.

I believe, as in this case, that the only reason a company would make an "in lieu of tax" deal is if it would mean paying substantially less money to the Town than the normal and ordinary real estate and personal property taxes would require.

Abe Kasparian  
161 School Street  
Agawam

## Opening Meeting Of New Town Council Was Bizarre

### To The Editor:

How very, very bizarre this past Council meeting was! Where, but in our city, could a Council President so thoroughly rebuked at the polls be returned to her position?

Where, but in our city, could those most critical of her tenure sit back and watch, with apathetic eyes, her reelection to City Council Presidency?

With all due respect for Mr. Langone, a vote of abstention is a vote of affirmation for motion carried. With all due respect for petulant absentees, failure to participate is a vote of affirmation for motion carried, as well. Councilor Perry may very well have had the votes if everyone had bothered to do what voters expect of them. Worries about "division" suggest consent for the status quo.

Spinelessness, it seems, will now substitute for power politics in the retention of Mayoral control over the board.

Am I too cynical, Mr. Suffriti? You're the one who noted the lack of any system of checks and balances. The void was the result, not of laws or charter, but of a compliant and complicit City Council. You campaigned for Councilor Perry before. Surely, you could have voted Tuesday night.

Am I too combative, Mr. Ennis? "Warefare" may be precisely what we need if we're to have a system of checks and balances instituted.

However much Mr. Bitzas and King Christopher I, might like to believe to the contrary, your prior

combative was far less "warefare" than a campaign for good government. I fail to see good reason for your withdrawal, as whiggamores are sorely needed.

Your failure to be present Tuesday night suggests you will play the role of whiggamore no more. How sad.

Am I too strident, Mr. Caba? Failure to go to meetings accomplishes no more than storming out of them. Unless you convince other Councilors to join you, you thwart no quorum and give assent to motion carried. Maybe you're tired.

I'm tired! I just watched a pro-Mayor faction returned to power! 1998 will just not come soon enough.

Owen Broadhurst  
Agawam

## AHS Student Seeking To Be Ambassador This Summer

### To The Editor:

#### To Whom This May Concern:

This letter is to introduce myself and my goal of traveling as a People to People Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand this summer.

My name is Veronicalynn LaValley and I am a 10th grade student at Agawam High School. This fall I was interviewed and accepted to the Westfield delegation for the People to People Student Ambassador Program, a 21-day program of exchange to Australia and New Zealand for meeting with teenagers and government officials and home visits with host families.

In case you haven't heard of this program, I will explain. People to People was started by President Eisenhower in 1956. Similar projects such as Sister Cities, Project Hope, and Pen Pals were founded at the same time as People to People and since then have become independent programs.

Student Ambassadors are carefully interviewed before their acceptance, and we are expected to share our overseas experiences with schools and civic clubs when we return. Because of its numerous educational activities, it is also offered for high school and college credit.

Personally, I would like to become a Student Ambassador because it will help me become independent and I want to travel to see other people's lifestyles.

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By  
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Saturday, January 13th  
Ham & bean supper at Agawam Baptist Church (corner of Main & Elm)  
Serving times: 4:45 & 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 13th  
Monthly chicken supper at Valley Community Church,  
152 South Westfield St., F.H.  
Servings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 15th  
W. Spfld.-Agawam La Leche League  
At Grace Lutheran Church,  
Westfield St., West Springfield  
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 20th  
Roast pork supper at  
Agawam Methodist Church  
5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 22nd  
Winter festival luncheon for  
Agawam/Feeding Hills AARP  
At Storowton Tavern, W. Spfld.  
Social hour: 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Saturday, January 27th  
Operation Friendship's "Oldies Dance"  
At Polish American Club, 139 Swk. Street  
8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight



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## LETTERS - from Page 4...

The program tuition for the program is \$3,999, including all meals and transportation costs. In working with my parents, they are willing to provide the amount I don't have or need to my goal, but have asked me to raise additional amounts to make my participation possible.

I plan to ask as many people I can to donate as much as they can to help me with my goal. Is it possible you could assist me by making a contribution? I plan to bring back pictures for my contributors so they can share my experiences.

My program tuition is due on April 1st. If you have any questions, call me at 786-3632. Your help will go a long way in making my dreams of visiting Australia and New Zealand as a representative of Agawam and the state of Massachusetts.

Sincerely yours,  
Veronica Lynn LaValley  
Agawam

## Appeals Board Member Should Be Saluted

### To The Editor:

A monumental decision was recently rendered by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The denial of the permit to allow Berkshire Power to build their plant in Agawam is attributable to one man, Raymond Gendron.

Mr. Gendron, all citizens of Agawam should salute you! We owe you a great debt for your insight and your courage for taking a stand against what is wrong.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Joseph S. Schlafler  
Main Street, Agawam

## Congratulations To Gendron For Power Plant Decision

### To The Editor:

Congratulations to Board of Appeals member Raymond Gendron. His judgment was pure facts. At least he has the judgment to protect the people who surround the industrial park and also the people who have located there.

Just look around as you drive by and you will find that this was one of the nicest areas in the city at one time. Let's not make it worse.

Why are special permits being sought? The park was formed with special rules to protect the park and the surrounding vicinity. Yes, people bought homes next to the park, but they didn't think the rules would be changed.

To all those who cry about, they knew the industrial park was there when they bought their homes. Yes, they did, but don't change the rules.

An industrial park and a huge powerhouse are two different things. I know, I worked on both.

Bill Gamelli  
23 Ridgeview Drive  
Feeding Hills

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, on THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1996 at 6:50 P.M. o'clock, for all parties interested in the appeal of JOHN O'KRONGLY, who are seeking relief from Section 180-27 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a single family residential structure with less than the required frontage at the premises identified as 853 NORTH STREET.

By order of the Board of Appeals,  
Raymond Gendron, Acting Chairman

Published: January 11, 1996

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, on THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1996 at 6:40 P.M. o'clock, for all parties interested in the appeal of WILLIAM J. BEKKERING AND GWEN E. VAN DORP, who are seeking relief from Section 180-41 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a single family residential structure with less than the required frontage, at the premises identified as LOT NO. 26 OR NO. 19, SOUTH WEST STREET.

By order of the Board of Appeals,  
Ronald A. Hebert, Chairman

Published: January 11, 1996

### LEGAL NOTICE

## Rep. Keenan Acts To Push Bill Designed To End Elder Abuse

In a further effort to end elder abuse, State Rep. Daniel F. Keenan successfully worked to enact a bill in the last legislative session designed to reduce the incidents of elderly abuse.

"Statistics demonstrate that incidents of elder abuse have risen over 300 percent during the last decade. Through the enactment of this bill, we have provided the law enforcement and judicial personnel the tools to reverse this disturbing trend and to properly and swiftly punish those who would commit these reprehensible acts," stated Rep. Keenan.

Under the new law, which defines elderly as those over the age of 60, failure to provide necessary care such as medication and nutritional assistance would be a criminal act which could result in a 10-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine. Also, assault and battery on elderly now can result in penalties of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, and the penalties for financial exploitation of elderly have been doubled to a 10-year prison sentence and a \$50,000 fine, along with restitution.

According to Rep. Keenan, these types of sanctions are necessary because of the alarming rise in reported cases of elder abuse. Statistics compiled by the state's Executive Office of Elder Affairs reveal that 1,529 cases were reported in 1984 and 4,913 were reported in 1994, an increase of 320 percent. Experts believe that many cases are not reported for fear of reprisal or embarrassment and that women are the victims in approximately 75 percent of all cases.

"This new law will supplement other legislative initiatives that I have supported which will ensure that our elderly have access to affordable and safe housing, quality health care and appropriate public safety supports. I remain committed to advocating for seniors across the full spectrum of issues which affect them," concluded Rep. Keenan.

*All the local news with us, each week*

786-1127

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\* When You Buy One Meal At Regular Price, Your Second Meal Of Equal Value Or Less Will Be Deducted. Offer Good On Entrees Only. \$5.00 Bar Minimum Required. Not Redeemable In Combination With Any Other Promotion Or Early Bird Specials.

15% service charge will be added to your bill.

Coupon

Not Valid On Holidays

### Wednesday and Thursday Only

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With This Coupon

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This coupon is not redeemable on specially priced entrees, lunch menu items, or early bird specials. Only one coupon per couple, per visit. Coupon is not redeemable for cash or with any other coupon or special. Applicable taxes paid by bearer.



## Johnson Takes Oath



MAYOR & MRS. CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON hold a town proclamation concerning the Mayor taking his oath of office for the 1996-97 term on Tuesday, January 2nd. Town Clerk Richard M. Theroux administered the oath to Johnson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Melconian Appointed Asst. Majority Leader To Mass. State Senate

In a press release issued this week, Senator Linda J. Melconian stated, "I am honored to have been appointed Assistant Majority Leader of the Senate. It is a leadership position of trust and responsibility."

She continued, "Only one other woman in the history of the Senate has ever attained this high position. It requires the ability to facilitate consensus positions among Senate colleagues."

"As assistant majority leader, I will be working with all Senate chairmen of the various joint committees to formulate Democratic policy positions, with the Senate Ways and Means Chairman to ensure that our tax dollars are returned home to benefit our Greater Springfield region, and with the Senate President to continue my economic development and job creation efforts."

"It is a great day for Springfield and a home run for Western Massachusetts," concluded Melconian.

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, Agawam, on THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1996 at 6:30 P.M. o'clock, for all parties interested in the appeal of DOUGLAS A. AND MARY ANN FERRIGNO, who are seeking relief from Section 180-27 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a single family residential structure with less than the required frontage and area at the premises identified as LOT NO. 10 WILLIAM STREET.

By order of the Board of Appeals,  
Ronald A. Hebert, Chairman

Published: January 11, 1996

## A Perfect New Year's Gift!

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## New School Committee Takes Oath Of Office



MEMBERS OF THE 1996-97 Agawam School Committee took the oath office on January 2nd. From left - Louis Massoia, Susan Pettazzoni, Roberta Doering, Rosemary Sandlin, Linda Galarneau, Teresa Kozloski, and Mayor Christopher C. Johnson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

## Here's Some Common Sense Suggestions If There Is A FIRE In Your Kitchen

The majority of accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen. Property damage could be drastically reduced if people only knew what to do when confronted with a kitchen fire.

The Agawam Fire Department suggests the following steps when confronted with a fire in the kitchen:

- If the fire is confined to a pan on top of the stove, slide the lid across the pan and leave it there. Do not attempt to move the pan outdoors because you may burn yourself or spread the fire.
- Never throw water or flour on a burning pan. Water will spread the flames, and flour will actually explode!
- Do not turn on the exhaust fan over the stove. This would suck the fire inside the walls of your home. If the fire is in your oven, turn off the heat and leave the door closed to cut off the fire's air supply.
- Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen. Make sure it is easily accessible in the event of a grease or oven fire. When purchasing a fire extinguisher

for kitchen use, make sure the extinguisher is rated for Class ABC fires to insure its acceptability for use on kitchen fires.

- If the fire is inside the oven, close the oven door. This action should smother the fire.

- If the fire is too large to safely cover, or for your fire extinguisher, leave the house immediately and call the fire department from a neighbor's telephone. Trying to fight a fire yourself when it's too large can cause far more extensive damage and can result in serious, unnecessary injury.

- As a preventive action, keep your cooking appliances (including stovetops, burners, the oven, and broilers) clean. Built-up grease can flare up easily, causing dangerous and damaging fires. And keep combustible materials—paper towels, dish towels, paper bags, cookbooks, and food packaging—away from the stove or other heat source. Keep your kitchen fire-safe.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

## Scott E. Skolnick Attorney At-Law

22 Southwick Street  
Crossroads Shoppes  
Feeding Hills  
786-6727



Attorney Skolnick and his Administrative Assistant, Erin Mercolino.

**Free Initial Consultation**



# Agawam Obituaries

## Winston E. VanDeusen

Winston E. VanDeusen, 66, of 37 Annable Street, Feeding Hills, formerly of Athol, died in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield.

Since 1982, he was an insurance representative for the Combined Insurance Co. of America and retired in 1991. He formerly worked for the Prudential Insurance Co. and as a salesman for Sears Roebuck Co. From 1959 to 1972, he was a radio announcer throughout Massachusetts.

Born in Boston, he was a 1948 graduate of Franklin High School in Franklin. He also attended Northeastern University for two years and was a graduate of the Cambridge School of Radio-TV Broadcasting.

He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War and served as a control tower operator in Japan.

He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He served from 1948 to 1952, and then re-enlisted and served from 1953 to 1956.

He formerly lived in Athol before moving to Feeding Hills 25 years ago.

He leaves his wife, the former Margaret I. Pike; a son, Raymond of Rutland; three daughters, Margo Stinson of Bellows Falls, Vermont, Cheryl Bevans of Alexandria, Virginia, and Sandra VanDeusen of Tacoma, Washington; two stepsons, Roland Richards of Nashua, New Hampshire, and Rand Richards of Enfield, Connecticut; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Fiske Funeral Home, with burial in Silver Lake Cemetery, both in Athol. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701.

## Arthur L. Aloisi

Arthur L. Aloisi, 91, formerly of Walnut Street, Agawam, died in a West Springfield nursing home.

He worked many years at the Strathmore Paper Co., and retired in 1970. He also worked for the Works Progress Administration during World War II.

Born in Southwick, he formerly lived in Springfield, before moving to Agawam in 1928.

He was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church, and a member of the Victor Emmanuel Club.

His wife, the former Anna Church, died in 1985.

He leaves two sisters, Barbara Rivers of Agawam and Alice Mahoney of West Springfield; nine grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

A son, Arthur R., died in 1994, and his daughter, Ann T. Housand, died in 1992.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home, West Springfield, and in the church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, West Springfield. Memorial contributions may be made to the church, 108 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

## Kimberly A. Farrell

Kimberly A. (Rousseau) Farrell, 37, of 36 Southwick St., Agawam, died in Baystate Medical Center.

Born in Westfield, she was a longtime resident here. She leaves a son, Thomas R. of Feeding Hills; three sisters, Pamela Tietze of Feeding Hills, Amy Girard of Feeding Hills, and Lynn Wilson of East Longmeadow; and her companion, Michael Kachon of Springfield.

The funeral was at Byron's Allen Street Funeral Home and in St. Michael's Cathedral, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

## Margaret J. Bush

Margaret (Johnson) Bush, 78, formerly of 46 Senator Avenue, Agawam, died at Mercy Hospital.

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, she lived in East Longmeadow before moving here. She worshipped at the Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church in Springfield and was in the Agawam Senior Center and the Golden Agers Chapter 2.

Her husband, Walter E. Bush, died in 1984. She leaves a son, Walter A. of Shutesbury; a daughter, Joann Sliach-Brodeur of Agawam; a brother, Gert Johnson of Boynton Beach, Florida; a sister, Elsie Whittington of Hopedale; five grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was at Colonial Funeral Home, followed by burial at Hillcrest Park Cemetery in Springfield. Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia Society of America, 181 Rustcraft Road, Dedham, Mass., 02026.

## Frances Enos

Frances (August) Enos, 100, an interpreter and assistant supervisor for a former Ludlow textile mill, died at home. She also worked as an interpreter and assistant supervisor at a local Providence R.I. textile mill for more than 20 years.

Born in Terceira Island, Azores, she lived in the Springfield and Ludlow areas before moving here in 1971.

She was a former member of St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield.

Her husband, Manny Enos, died in 1944, a son, George Enos in 1939, and a second son, Edward Enos in 1940. She leaves a son, Albert J. of Agawam.

The funeral was held at Colonial Funeral Home and in St. Michael's Cathedral, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brightside for Families and Children, 2112 Riverdale Road, West Springfield, the Genesis Center for Health and Rehabilitation, 540 Meadow St. Ext., Agawam, 01001, or the Dominican Nuns, 1430 Riverdale Road, West Springfield, Mass. 01089.

**PLEASE REMEMBER that Jack Devine needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your event. Contact Jack at 789-0053. If he is out, please leave a message.**

**Please remember our deadline is Tuesday at noon.**

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The prospectus contains complete information, including charges, fees, and expenses. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. \* Nationwide® Growth Fund average annual (compound) total returns for periods ending 9/30/95 assume the 4.5% sales charge was paid and dividends and capital gains were reinvested. Total return and share price will vary. Shares may be worth more or less at redemption. Past performance is no guarantee of future results which may be less or more.

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## Families

First CD Released - Just Music No Style...

# For Bob Casinghino & Family, Music Has Become More Than A Way Of Life

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

He's known among local musicians as "Papa," a nickname that started as a goof about 16 years ago when the band was painting a house to earn the money needed to continue their dream of playing together in front of an audience.

The mistake: speaking to band members in the same patient, fatherly way he spoke to his two young sons who were "helping" the painting crew.

Since then, Agawam resident Bob Casinghino has been affectionately dubbed "Papa" by his musical peers.

To his instrumental music students at Southwick's Powder Mill Middle School and to all the people who are intimidated by all those letters in his last name, he's Mr. C.

Recently, Mr. "Papa" C released his first CD on the locally produced record label CH Records.

Titled "Just Music No Style," the CD consists of songs in a variety of musical genres written by Mr. C (alone) and in collaboration with members of his band, Peace By Peace.

In addition to lyrical numbers celebrating the loves of his life—his wife, Debbie, and sons, Jesse and Justin—the CD features jazz instrumentals and even a rap number.

Casinghino said the CD was deliberately put together to preclude being pigeonholed as one particular musical genre, hence the title "Just Music No Style."

"One of my pet peeves is people who don't listen to music for its own sake, but for the style they like. How will you know if you don't like it if you don't listen to it?" Casinghino asked, adding, "I made the CD eclectic for that very reason."

A prolific songwriter, Casinghino considers his talent at composing music and lyrics to be a God-given gift. Sometimes he knows where the songs come from and sometimes the songs just come, like in the middle of the night.

Over the years, Casinghino has learned to carry paper, pencils, and a tape recorder at all times to capture the songs running through his head. Debbie has learned to cope with waking in the middle of the night to find her husband gone to another room or sometimes to the studio for an all-night session to get the music down.

### Keeping His Emotions In Check

An admittedly emotional man whose feelings are close to the surface, Casinghino has had to deal with keeping his emotions in check in order to get through performances of his most personal songs.

And the family has had to learn to hear him singing of his innermost feelings and the joy of their lives together in songs like "17 Years," written



AGAWAM RESIDENT BOB CASINGHINO has released a new CD.

for Debbie on their 17th wedding anniversary five years ago. "Heart of One" tells the story of a love growing from two to become a family of four bound together into one heart.

"It's a very emotional thing, but it's gotten to the point where it's a hand squeeze beneath the table for Debbie and me," Casinghino said.

Some of the songs on the CD are of recent vintage; some have been years in the making. "Tocar" was specially written for Bob "to play instruments" (translation of the Spanish word tocar) with his sons at the same time in their growth as musicians. Each of the boys (Jesse on drums and Justin on synth flute and tenor sax) recorded their parts at the point of turning from 15 to 16 years of age—something of a musical coming of age.

"That song was meant to capture a moment in each of their lives," Casinghino said. "It's like a snapshot of their development as musicians. The boys listen to it now and ask if they can recut their parts."

For the Casinghinos, the love of music is something of a generational thing growing stronger as it's passed down. Casinghino said it all began with his mother's piano playing. This placed him on the road to a career in music and has continued on down to Jesse, a professional

musician, and Justin, an Agawam High senior planning a career in music.

"We've never pushed it, but music has been around the house all their lives," Casinghino said. "They've been enveloped with it, but not choked with it."

One of his proudest moments in collaborating with his sons came when he auditioned for and won the job of lead singer in Jesse's band. "I told them if they didn't mind an old man, I'll come audition. We've never had a generation gap. We have music to bring us together," Casinghino said.

### Most Satisfying Aspect Of His Work

Whether he's on stage with "Peace By Peace," with the band formed by Jesse and his friends, or teaching young musicians, the most satisfying aspect of his work is the connection with other people—the personal thing that happens between a teacher and a student or a musician and an audience, according to him.

"If someone listens to the CD and likes it, that's great. I get a great satisfaction from doing something I love," Casinghino said. "I look at it as a personal thing, teacher to student or musician to audience. Each song I sing, I try to make it personal to myself and each person in the audience."

The composer of more than 500 songs, Casinghino's work has been heard on national television commercials, as background on documentary films, and on local radio stations.

In the near future, one of Casinghino's compositions will be used in a feature film being produced by Darkhorse Productions.

If you've recently attend a wedding, you may have heard one of Casinghino's tunes. "Song For My Son" is becoming a new tradition with over 50,000 copies of the sheet music sold. The song is in the mode of "Daddy's Little Girl" and has attracted national attention.

"It's going national in a weird sense," Casinghino said. "Some TV talk shows have done segments on it, and we've had lots of DJ's who do weddings contact us for people who have heard about it and want the song for their son's wedding."

"Just Music No Style" is out on the local label CH Records and is available on CD and cassette at Guitar Academy in Agawam, Performance Music in Westfield, ATC Acoustics in West Springfield, Record Outlet, or through CM Records in Agawam.

## Open Pantry Expands Parent-Child Program

The West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry announces the expansion of its Parent-Child Program from three mornings a week to four mornings. The program meets Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 802 Main Street, West Springfield.

The morning begins with breakfast from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., followed by a pre-school class for children two to five years-old and parenting sessions for adults. Nutrition, health and safety, and crafts are just some of the morning activities.

The morning ends with lunch for the children. Special trips, guest personalities, and parties are also part of the Parent-Child Program.

The program is open to all adults interested in a parenting program. Pre-school children must be accompanied by a parent.

For more information, contact the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry at 734-7969, or the Parent-Child Program at 734-2640.



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## Thomas J. Sandstrom Serving Aboard USS America

Navy Seaman Thomas J. Sandstrom, son of Otto J. and Darlene O. Sandstrom of Feeding Hills, is currently in the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia serving aboard the aircraft carrier *USS America*.

Sandstrom is one of more than 5,000 Sailors and Marines aboard the ship supporting the peace implementation operations in the former Yugoslavia. Sandstrom's ship is the lead ship of the 11-ship *USS America* Battle Group that includes more than 80 tactical aircraft, and ships and submarines armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles. Since leaving Norfolk, Virginia in late August, Sandstrom has traveled more than 15,000 miles.

Sandstrom most recently returned to the Adriatic Sea after going to the Persian Gulf to help enforce the no-fly zone over Southern Iraq. Sandstrom and fellow shipmates traveled more than 4,000 miles in just nine days after receiving orders to return to the Adriatic.

As the peace implementation forces began to pour in from around the world, Sandstrom's ship was already in the Adriatic Sea supporting the operation. *USS America* aircraft have been patrolling the skies over Bosnia and the Adriatic since they arrived.

Sandstrom began the deployment in the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia, where the 1,096-foot-long aircraft carrier and its nine aircraft squadrons participated in three days of NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets in support of U.N. initiatives in Bosnia. Aircraft from Sandstrom's ship flew more than 360 missions during the three-day period. The air strikes targeted military storage and ammunition depots, anti-aircraft missile defense systems, command and control facilities, and military communications systems.

While most of the deployment has been spent at sea, Sandstrom also visited Greece and Italy and had an opportunity to visit local sites.

Sandstrom's involvement in the deployment is an example of the mobility of naval forces and how Sailors and Marines can respond on short notice to crises around the world. These forces can dominate coastal and ocean areas while projecting sustained power and presence wherever U.S. interests are involved.

*USS America* is not scheduled to return to the United States until late February.

Sandstrom is a 1990 graduate of Agawam High School and joined the Navy in March 1991.

## Remembrance Service At Curran-Jones



**CURRAN-JONES FUNERAL HOME** in West Springfield was the site of a Service of Remembrance. Pictured, from left - Rev. Mr. James Martone of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, Rev. Eugene Wratford, Funeral Director Joseph Curran, Vera Conway, Rev. Kenneth Tatro of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, and Funeral Director Richard Curran. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** to publicize your event at least two weeks in advance. Our deadline is Tuesday at noon but we appreciate those who bring in their copy on Monday. We open at 6:30 a.m.

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## Rotary Auction



THE AGAWAM ROTARY CLUB held a benefit auction last month at the Storowton Carriage House. Rotarians pictured (top) include Timothy Ayre and Michael Grandfield; and (below) Police Chief Robert Campbell and Rotary President Cathy Ayre. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



## Local AARP Chapter To Hold Luncheon

The Agawam/Feeding Hills Chapter No. 4915 of AARP will not hold a regular meeting in January. A Winter Festival luncheon on January 22nd is planned instead. The luncheon is to be held at Storowton Tavern, Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Social Hour will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The choice of menu, including appetizer, coffee, and dessert, is boneless breast of chicken, broiled Boston scrod, or Yankee pot roast. The price is \$13 per person. This includes tax and gratuity.

For reservations, call Rose Paro at 786-5797 or Ruth Pieper at 786-8335. Tickets must be paid by January 18th.

Anyone who is a member of the National AARP is invited to attend. Chapter members may bring guests.

Come join us for this Winter Festival luncheon. A good time will be had by all.

## Agawam Girl Scouts Set To Begin Annual Cookie Drive Featuring 2 New Flavors

Girl Scout cookies are back again by popular demand! Over 3,000 Pioneer Valley Girl Scouts will be taking orders for *EIGHT* delicious varieties of cookies between January 18th and February 8th.

Varieties available include Thin Mints, Samoas, Dosidos, Tagalongs, Trefoils, Chalet Cremes, and the *NEW JULIETTES AND LOW FAT SNAPS*. Cookies will sell for \$3 per box. Delivery of ordered cookies will occur March 13th-31st.

The annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale directly benefits girls in the Pioneer Valley by encourag-

ing the development of leadership and business skills among girls, as well as providing necessary financial support for Girl Scout programs and activities.

This year's council-wide goal is 230,000 boxes of cookies sold. *All* proceeds from the cookie sale stay within the council.

If a Girl Scout is not able to call on you during the cookie order-taking period (January 18th through February 8th), please call Pioneer Valley Girl Scouts at 525-4124 or 1-800-639-7047 to place your order.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBSCRIBE, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137. We are now offering six-month subscriptions.

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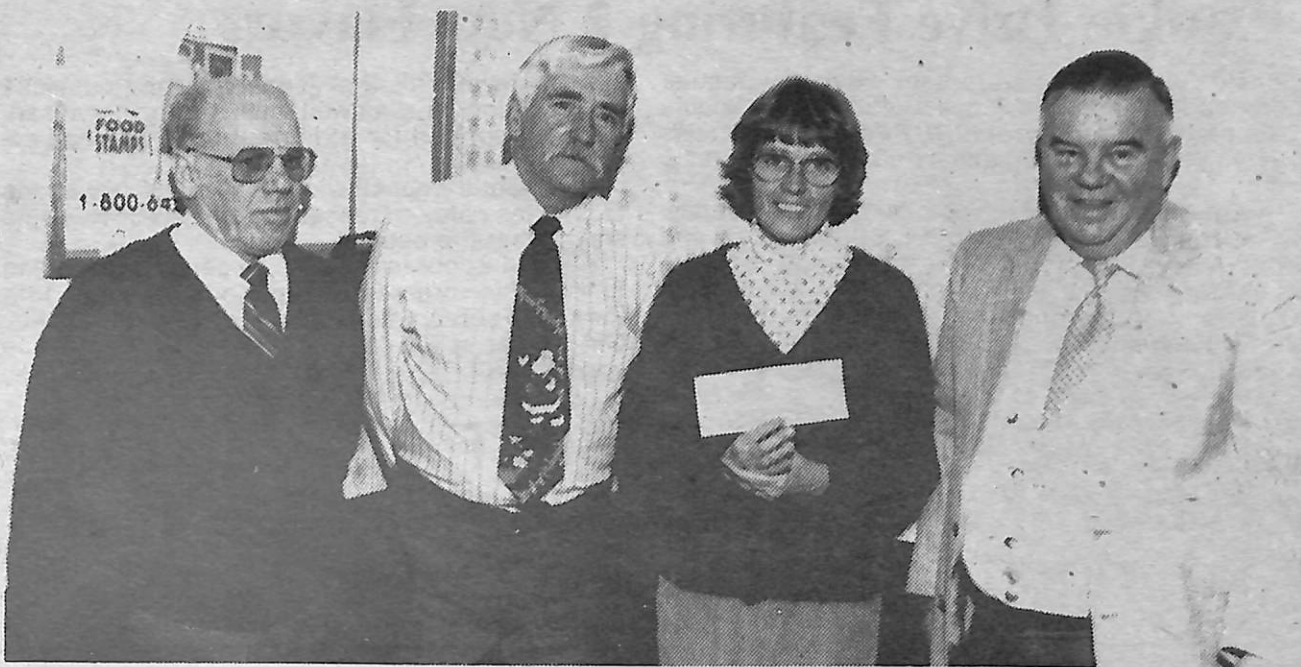


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# Agawam CROP Walk Benefits Local Open Pantry



**THE AGAWAM CROP WALK COMMITTEE** presented a check to the Open Pantry last month for \$2,300, with an addition check for \$150 coming this month. From left - Richard Chapman, Crankers Antique Car Club (one of the event sponsors); Vincent Callahan, CROP Walk Committee; Diane Crowell, Open Pantry executive director; and Bob Broga, Open Pantry Committee. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



**CRANKERS ANTIQUE CAR CLUB** President Richard Chapman presents a donation from his group to Diane Crowell, director of the Open Pantry. The club helped raise the funds during the Annual Agawam CROP Walk. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



**AGAWAM LIONS CLUB PRESIDENT** Anthony C. Bonavita presents a check for \$1,000 to Diane Crowell, director of the Open Pantry as Robert Loomis, third vice-president of the Lions looks on. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Open Pantry Receives Gift Of \$1,000 To Benefit Programs From Ag. Lions Club

The Agawam Lions Club, an all-volunteer charitable organization, has proudly donated \$1,000 to the West Springfield-Agawam Open Pantry.

Lions Club President Anthony C. Bonavita and Third Vice-President Robert Loomis presented Diane Crowell, Director of the West Springfield-

Agawam Open Pantry, with the donation. Bonavita stated, "The West Springfield-Agawam Open Pantry provides a valuable service to the community. During the year, the Agawam Lions Club raises funds by numerous fundraisers. We are pleased to be able to again donate to help this cause among the many others."



## Ask Dr.

by Stephen Jacapraro,  
D.M.D.

**1379 Main Street,  
Agawam, MA 01001  
(413) 786-8177**

## CHECKUPS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

**Q.** How well do older Americans protect their teeth and gums by regularly scheduling dental checkups?

A. This, of course, varies among individuals. But data from a national health survey show that little more than 40 percent of those 65 and over visited a dental office within the preceding 12 months. The data do not indicate how many did so only because a significant dental problem had developed.

The point here is this: Even among those who should know better, many neglect to take a very basic step to maintain dental health and retain more of their teeth as they age. The periodic dental checkup may detect developing problems when early treatment could still prevent big troubles.

A professional cleaning at the same dental visit removes plaque and tartar that foster decay and gum disease. How long has it been since your last checkup and cleaning?

## THE DRY MOUTH

**Q.** How common is the condition known as chronic dry mouth?

A. About 25 million adult Americans are affected by a reduction in saliva output by glands of the mouth. Increasing incidence of dry mouth is attributed to the growing elderly population, the side effects of many medications and other causes.

Dry mouth can be a serious problem. It can cause difficulties in swallowing and talking and can lead to mouth sores. Also, reduced saliva flow increases the risk of tooth decay.

If you have reason to suspect that dry mouth may be related to a prescribed medicine, don't discontinue it on your own. Instead, ask your physician about it. The dentist can suggest several ways to cope with dry mouth, including the use of certain saliva substitutes. Also, the dentist might recommend fluoride products and treatments to reduce the risk of tooth decay.

Brought to you as a public service by Dr.  
Stephen R. Jacapraro, D.M.D., 1379 Main St.,  
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KRISTEN CLARK &amp; TODD OBERHEIM

## Kristen Clark Engaged To Todd Oberheim

Michael and Jean Clark of Westfield are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen, to Todd Oberheim of Agawam. Todd is the son of Gloria and the late Paul Oberheim of Agawam.

Kristen is a graduate of Westfield High School and the University of Connecticut. She is a sixth grade teacher at Wilbraham Middle School.

Todd is a graduate of Agawam High School. He is employed by Atlas Copco in Holyoke.

The couple are planning a July 1996 wedding and are hoping to reside in Agawam.

Mary Cauley of Agawam will serve as the future bride's maid of honor, and the groom-to-be's brother, Bruce Arsenault of Holyoke, will serve as best man.

*Best local news...*

## Elegant Bridal Show At Chez Josef Slated For Sunday, January 14th

If you are planning a wedding this year, the place to go is Robert Charles Studio's Bridal Show '96, taking place on Sunday, January 14, 1996 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Chez Josef in Agawam.

The best of the Valley's wedding professionals will demonstrate their services and be available to take with future brides and grooms, their families, and friends. Bridal boutiques, florists, travel consultants, videographers, photographers, bands, D.J.'s, and bridal consultants are just some of the professionals who will be showing off their specialties.

"The Robert Charles Studio Bridal Show is like none other in this area," said show producer Edward Zemba. "We hand-picked the area's finest wedding related businesses so that brides may choose among the very best."

A trademark of the show is its Grand Prize giveaway. Zemba said, "This year's Grand Prize wedding package is the largest package we have offered in the show's 20-year history!"

It includes everything from a wedding gown to photography, and courtesy of First Discount Travel, an all-inclusive honeymoon package to Cancun, Mexico! What makes this prize so exceptional is that the entire package is awarded to one couple on the day of the show. The total value of this package exceeds \$10,000.

In addition, thousands of dollars in door prizes are given out throughout the day. Multiple fashion shows will feature the latest styles in wedding gowns, attendants' gowns, tuxedos, and mothers' attire. "Seating is limited, so arrive as early as possible," said Zemba.

The first fashion show starts at 12:30, presented by Yale Genton of West Springfield and

Bridal Reflections by Grace of Ludlow. "We'll have the best models showing off the newest looks in tuxedos from After Six, Christian Dior, Oscar De La Renta, Lord West, Perry Ellis, and Carl Lagerfeld.

Every one of these incredible new tuxedos will be professionally modeled. This will not only be the most informative wedding fashion show this year, but it will also be the most entertaining with professionally choreographed dancers and live music," said Kevin Kousch, manager of Yale Genton.

The second fashion show will start at 3:00 p.m. and be presented by Bancroft Bridals of Ludlow and Squire Tux of Connecticut. "These two businesses have been producing fantastic shows for years and this year's promises to be an excellent presentation," said Zemba. In addition to the fashion shows, there will be performances by vocalist Gary S. Jones and a talk from New England's premier makeup artist Lynn Tassinari Wegiel, and local wedding consultant Sheila D. Lilly.

If you are one of the lucky ones, you'll find yourself being chauffeured from your car to the main entrance of Chez Josef in a limousine. Once inside, the area's top bands and D.J.'s will set the mood with music throughout the day. Chez Josef's famous hors d'oeuvres and refreshments top the list of reasons why the Robert Charles Studio Bridal Show is the place to go this year for planning a wedding.

The day is Sunday, January 14, 1996 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Chez Josef in Agawam. Area wedding professionals who wish to participate should contact Edward Zemba at (413) 525-4263 for consideration.

## Christopher Pisano With CBS Affiliate In Macon, Georgia

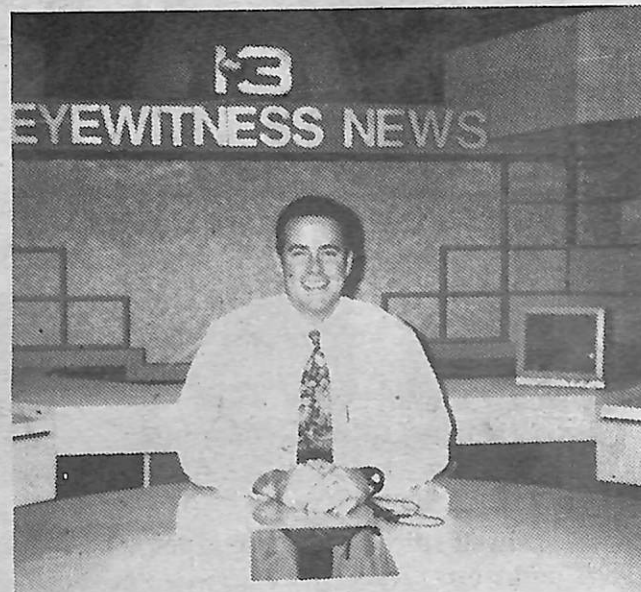
Christopher P. Pisano, son of Lawrence and Elizabeth Pisano of Feeding Hills, is working at WMAZ, Channel 13, in Macon Georgia, the highest rated CBS affiliate in the country.

He is a reporter for that station's Houston County Bureau. He appears nightly, live from the news desk, on the 5:00, 6:00, and 11:00 o'clock news.

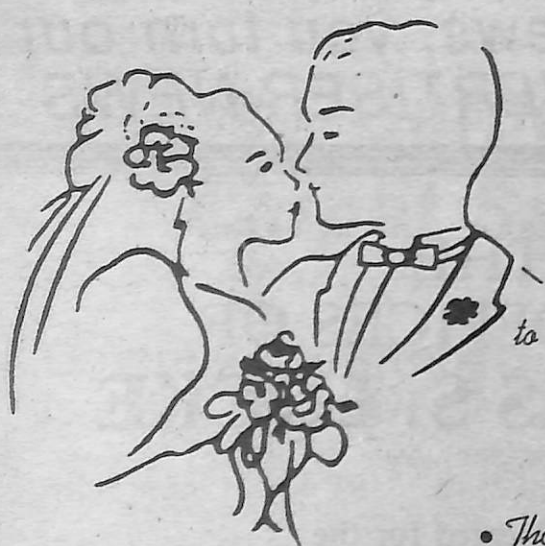
Pisano is a 1987 graduate of Agawam High School. He received a B.A. in journalism and political science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1991. Currently, he is pursuing his master's degree from Emerson College in Boston.

Pisano was hired during his last semester at Emerson. He will finish his schooling long-distance and hopes to receive the degree in May of 1996.

WMAZ is the highest rated station in Macon, with a viewing audience of over 100,000 people.



FORMER AGAWAM RESIDENT CHRISTOPHER P. PISANO is now working as a reporter for a CBS affiliate station in Georgia.



to be held at



## Robert Charles Studio's '96 Bridal Show

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- Free Parking • \$5 Admission per person

- 2 Fashion Shows (Seating is Limited) •
- 12:30 show features Yale Genton & Bridal Reflections by Grace
- 3:00 show features Mr. Tux & Bancroft Bridals

- All inclusive Honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico worth \$5000.00 from First Discount Travel
- Wedding Day Photographic Coverage from Robert Charles Studio
- Flowers for the entire Wedding Party from The Valley Florist
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- Complete Video Coverage from Zasco TeleProductions

All Prizes subject to availability

"Because you only get one chance at a perfect wedding"

Sunday, January 14th 11:00am to 5:00pm



## Agawam Lioness Completes Another Successful Holiday Season



THE AGAWAM LIONESS CLUB had another busy holiday season. IN PHOTO LEFT, members Pat Lalancette and Priscilla Peterson collect toys for needy children; In PHOTO RIGHT President Elaine Taupier looks over canned goods given by club members and then delivered by member Mary Roy to the Open Pantry.



AGAWAM LIONESS CLUB member Bernice Burton presents a club donation to Diane Crowell, executive director of the Open Pantry as one of the club's holiday activities.

## During Brutal Winter Driving, AAA Suggests That Finesse Can Be More Effective

Motorists who find themselves stuck in snow this winter should remember that finesse can be more effective than power, according to the Auto Club of Pioneer Valley.

"Hard acceleration usually won't help," said Paul Higgs, manager of Emergency Road Service. "In fact, it's likely to worsen the situation by causing the tires to spin, digging the car deeper into the snow."

Instead, the Auto Club of Pioneer Valley recommends that motorists follow these tips:

- Clear away as much snow as possible from around the tires and under the vehicle.
- To help improve traction, scatter sand, cat litter or some other abrasive material around the front wheels for front-wheel-drive cars, and around the rear wheels for rear-wheel-drive cars. Special traction mats are also available for this purpose. Floor mats also can be used.
- Place the car in low gear (automatic transmissions) or second gear (manual transmissions) and apply gentle pressure to the accelerator. Ease off if the tires begin to spin.
- If still unable to move, try slowly rocking the car. Ease forward with the car in low gear (automatic transmissions) or second gear (manual transmissions). When the car will no longer go forward, release the accelerator to allow the car to roll back. When the vehicle stops its backward motion, apply minimum pressure on the accelerator again. Repeat these actions in

rapid succession. If the vehicle remains stuck, do not continue rocking for prolonged periods. Serious damage to automatic transmissions may occur.

- If others are available to help, have them push to assist the car's rocking motion.

- People pushing the vehicle should not stand directly behind the wheels because of potential risk from flying gravel, sand and ice. Also, they should be aware of their own physical limitations. Footing can be hazardous, and overexertion can be especially dangerous in cold weather.

- If you are unable to get your vehicle unstuck, carefully assess weather conditions before abandoning your vehicle. In extreme cold or in heavy snow, stay with your car until you can be rescued.

- If you stay in your car, tie a bright cloth to your antenna to alert rescuers. If running the engine for warmth, make sure snow does not block the exhaust pipe, which could cause dangerous fumes to back up inside the car.

- If you can leave your vehicle and reach shelter safely, contact your auto club for assistance. Remember that during winter emergencies, high demand for emergency road service can sometimes cause delays in response.

The Auto Club of Pioneer Valley is a not-for-profit motor club with offices in West Springfield and Holyoke providing over 95,000 members with travel, financial and auto-related services. For further information, call (413) 785-1381.

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AS  
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**AGAWAM ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT**  
Kathy Ayre presents a community service  
award to longtime civic leader Zoafia Demko.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

**Monday, January 15th:** Senior Center closed (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

**Tuesday, January 16th:** Stuffed pepper, mashed potatoes, corn, Canadian oat bread, bread pudding.

**Wednesday, January 17th:** Turkey loaf with gravy, baked potato, green beans, whole wheat bread, pumpkin square.

**Thursday, January 18th:** Baked chicken leg, sweet potato, cabbage & carrots, pumpernickel bread, pineapple chunks.

**Friday, January 19th:** Baked fish, Spanish rice, tossed salad, rye bread, canned apricots.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

## Agawam Rotary Club Honors Zoafia Demko For Many Years Of Community Service

On Thursday, December 14, 1995, the Agawam Rotary Club honored Zoafia Demko of Agawam for years of community service.

President Kathy Ayre presented Zoafia an engraved plaque at a luncheon held at Storowton Tavern. Her service includes:

1938-1970: Published articles in the Polish newspaper in Toronto, Detroit, and Chicago.

1940-Late 50's: Helped run the Polish Newsletter in New England.

1959-1967: Member PTA.

1960's: Organized trees and Santa for shut-in kids during the holidays at Shriners, Mercy, and Springfield Hospitals.

1960-1970: Helped with various Boy Scout fundraisers: flower sales, newspaper drives, dinners.

1960-Present: Hampden County Improvement League; Home Dept. classes; Mid 60's treasurer; Northeast Regional Volunteer, 4-H; Forum Committee; Member, Garden Club.

1963-1967: Girl Scout Associate.

1964-Present: Runs the 4-H Milk Booth at The Big E.

1966-1970: Organized 4H'ers and constructed a garden at the Jewish Nursing Home.

1968-1973: Ran the 4-H Food Booth on The Big E fairgrounds for events such as the Mass. Dairy Show, Sheep Shows, and 4-H Fair.

1968-1974: Advisor to the Jr. Grange.

1968-1974: Volunteer at the Heritage Hall Nursing Home—Bingo, Arts & Crafts.

1969-1976: Volunteer work with the 4-H at Belchertown State School.

1970-Present: Feeding Hills Grange member; member of the Pioneer Planters; Agawam Beautification Committee; Clerk of Polls; Trophy Chairperson, 4-H Fair.

1988-Present: Mass. Volunteer, 4-H Forum Committee.

1993-Present: Corresponding Secretary, Mass. 4-H All-Stars.

1990: Eastern States Host of the Day.

1993: Friends of The Big E, Agawam Day; Hampden County Special Activity Fund; 29 years in 4-H; 21 years as Advisor to the 4-H Service Club.

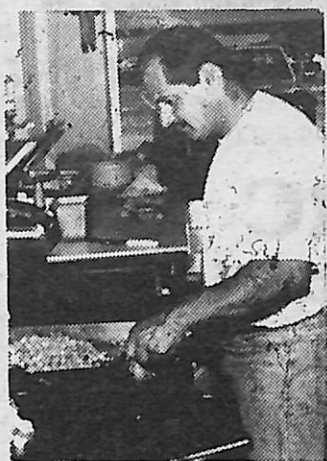
Mrs. Demko is also the recipient of The Friends of League Award; Minnie R. Dwight Scholarship Committee; and The Salute to Excellence Award in 4-H.

In her spare time, she found time to be the bookkeeper for her husband's business, be a household engineer around the house, raise three children, as well as influence the lives of the thousands of children she has come in contact with over the years.

## Agawam/West Side Toastmasters Awards



JOANNE ATTARDI recently won the first prize trophy for the humorous speech contest at the Agawam/West Side Toastmasters Club. She proceeded on to the next level of competition in Pittsfield where she won second place for the area competition. Also holding an award is James Frantz and looking on is James Collins. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



## Richy B's Breakfast—Deli

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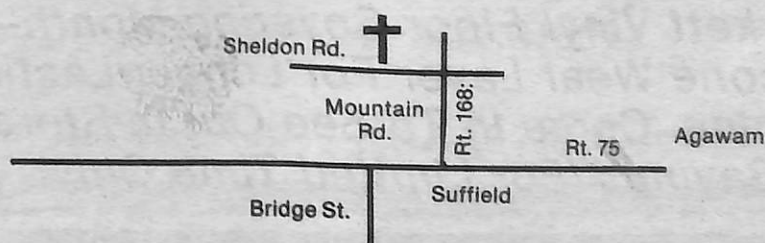
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## Church News

### News & Notes From F.H. Congregational

Join with us this week on Sunday, January 14th, at Feeding Hills Congregational Church when we will welcome Mr. Lowell McLane as a guest speaker. The church is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Sunday School for children and adults begins at 9:00 a.m. Children are then welcome to attend worship with their parents at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. McLane will present a sermon entitled "Fighting Spiritual Depression - Renewing Hope." One in 12 (or 20 million) Americans will struggle with depression in their lifetime. What happens to us spiritually when depression occurs? How do we instill hope when life seems to crush in around us? These and other questions will be looked at in light of the Scripture using Psalm 42 as the text. Nursery care will be provided.

Sunday, January 14th is Open Pantry Sunday. If you are able to bring a bag of groceries or other needed items, it would be appreciated. If you are unable to do so, there will be envelopes available on the Open Pantry collection table for cash donations.

Thank you for your continuing support of the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry.

Calling all students age eight and up: If you wish to be an acolyte during the Sunday Services, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in Griswold Hall. Both experienced and new acolytes need to sign up by Sunday, January 21st. The new schedule will begin on February 3rd.

Training is provided and will be held immediately after church on Sunday, January 28th. Please consider doing this important responsibility for your church.

If you have any questions, please see Sharon Rozanski or call her at 786-8743.

**ALL COMMITTEES** must submit a report to be presented at the church annual meeting on January 28th. The deadline has passed and several reports were not received.

Please submit them as soon as possible. The annual report booklet will be finished by Friday, February 19th.

The Council meeting scheduled to take place on January 8th has been postponed until Monday, January 15th, at 7:30 p.m. The Trustees will not meet at that time as previously scheduled.

On the calendar this week:

**Sunday, January 14th:** 9:00 a.m., Sunday School/Adult Bible Literacy; 10:00 a.m., Open Pantry Sunday/Speaker from Rapha Treatment Center; 11:30 a.m., Christian Ed meeting; 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Youth Group (10-plus); 2:00 p.m., Cub Scouts.

**Monday, January 15th:** 1:00 p.m., LBS meeting; 5:15 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:30 p.m., Council.

**Tuesday, January 16th:** 12:00 noon, Clergy Luncheon at FHCC; 7:00 p.m., A.A.

**Wednesday, January 17th:** 2:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Music Committee; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

**Saturday, January 20th:** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., OF Railroad Luncheon.

## "The Greatest Story Ever Told..."



THE CHILDREN OF THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH were proud to present "The Greatest Story Ever Told" at their Annual Christmas Eve Pageant last month.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

On Sunday, January 14th, at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service at Agawam Congregational Church, Nancy Molin, the U.C.C. Missionary to Nepal, will give the sermon and assist Rev. Fuller with the Worship Service. She will be speaking about her eight-year experience as a missionary in Nepal.

The Children's Message will be "How Big is Your World." The second half of the church school continues this Sunday. Classes ninth through 12th grades and Adult classes meet at 9:15 a.m., and crib room through sixth grade meet at the 10:30 a.m. session.

Playgroup meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Infants through pre-school are eligible to attend the playgroups.

Anyone interested call Sue Tapply at 786-1430.

The Sanctuary Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. under the direction of Bryan Kirby, the church organist/choir director.

Youth Sunday will be Sunday, January 21, 1996. The Senior High youth of the church will be leading and participating in the Worship Service.

## Ham & Bean Supper At Ag. Baptist Church

A family-style ham and bean supper has been slated for Saturday, January 13th, at Agawam Baptist Church (corner of Main and Elm).

The serving times are 4:45 and 6:15 p.m. Adult admission is just \$7, and children (under 10 years of age) are \$3.

For reservations, call 786-8570, 786-8609, or 786-8209.

The menu will include baked ham, home-baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, coffee, tea or milk, and assorted homemade pies.

If you find you are unable to honor your reservations, please call and cancel.

## Roast Pork Supper At Ag. Methodist Church

Agawam Methodist Church will hold a Roast Pork Supper on Saturday, January 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Cost for seniors citizens is \$5; all others, \$6. The menu will consist of salad, roast pork, potato, vegetable, applesauce, and dessert.

For reservations, call the church office at 786-4174 or Dana Henry at 789-0684.

In charge of the kitchen will be Carl Bernier, Paul Broz, and Dana Henry. Paula Bernier will have charge of the dining room.

Best local news...

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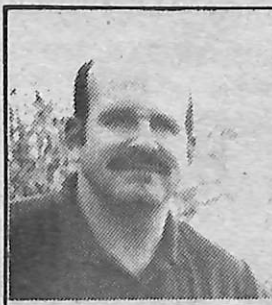
\$1 Admission Only

### OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHURCH

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## Church News - continued...



## Reflections...

submitted by  
**Rev. Peter Monahan**  
Pastor of the Church  
of the Apostles,  
Suffield, CT  
(860) 668-4444 or  
(413) 786-8735

## THE EPIPHANY

This week, the Church celebrates the Epiphany. The dictionary defines "epiphany" as an "appearance or manifestation of a god or other supernatural being." How can we know God? Can we know He exists? What is He like? These are questions which people have asked throughout history. Different people have looked to different sources to find answers to these questions.

For some people, just looking at our world tells them a lot. They observe the dynamic interplay between air and water, as well as the interactions between living and nonliving things. They watch members of the animal kingdom with their marvelous instinctive knowledge of how to do things. Why do geese fly in "V" formation, but those tiny little black birds fly in a swarm?

Who tells some animals to nurture their newborn offspring, while others lay their eggs and leave their little ones to make it on their own? Yet amazingly, even though the various species have vastly different ways of bringing their young into the world, those offspring generally survive. Surely even a casual observation of our world should impress us all that this is a complex machine with many complicated, intricate, and interactive parts.

The world in which we live presents a strong argument for a genius, a creative being, who made it. A great factory requires a great builder to build it and a great manager to manage it. In Psalm 19:1 we read, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies proclaim the work of His hands." The bible also says, "Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, His eternal power, and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made."

Others approach the questions about God from

a philosophical or religious point of view. Early religions were often nature based, associating God with the sun, animals, wind, or other natural phenomenon. We see modern traces of that in American Indian religion, as well as in Asia and India today. Gradually, religions became more philosophically oriented and moved towards seeing God as being more like people.

Interestingly enough, they often saw God as having many negative human traits, such as anger, hatred, general hostility, and even lust. Anthropologists note there are many similarities among ancient religions. The Enlightenment Era gave rise to the notion that God is actually unknowable. Perhaps the best articulation of this was offered by Immanuel Kant, who in 1781 developed the theory of the Noumenon and the Phenomenon, which are planes or levels of existence.

People live in the Phenomenon. God exists in the Noumenon, if He exists at all, which Kant claimed no one could really know. Later, Kant realized it is convenient for society if God exists, because without Him there is no basis for law and order or morality. He redefined religion to be the necessary basis for ethics. For Kant, religion is not based on the truth.

The truth, if it exists, is unknowable; it is of the Noumenon. However, people need to believe in something in order for society to function. Where have we heard that lately? This is the basis for some modern religious thought. "All religions are equally valid." "No religious beliefs are superior to any others." "We're all climbing the same mountain, just going up different paths."

What Kant and his followers did not take into account is the Epiphany, the appearance or manifestation of a supernatural Being, the Lord Jesus Christ. Kant and company forgot that God has been making Himself known for a long time, first throughout the Old Testament and then the New. Kant was correct in asserting that our knowledge of God would actually be vague if all we had to go by is our observations of His handiwork in creation, but fortunately for us, we live on the "visited planet." God has chosen to make Himself available, and known, to us.

Rev. Peter Monahan, Pastor of the Church of the Apostles, Suffield, CT (860) 668-4444 or (413) 786-8735.



U.C.C. MISSIONARY Nancy Molin will give a guest sermon at the Agawam Congregational Church on Sunday, January 14th.

## U.C.C. Missionary To Nepal To Speak At Ag. Congregational

Nancy Molin, U.C.C. Missionary to Nepal, will be the guest Sermon Speaker on Sunday, January 14th, at the Agawam Congregational Church. She will be speaking about her eight-year experience in Nepal.

Nancy will also assist Rev. Fuller with the Worship Service.

You will be able to meet Nancy following the Worship Service at the Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall. Following the Coffee Hour, there will be a pizza luncheon.

Join Nancy at the Coffee Hour and luncheon.

## Deadline Is January 12th Buy Tickets For Falcons Hockey Game With Sacred Heart

Time is running out to participate in a night of hockey fun when the Springfield Falcons meet the Worcester Ice Cats. The deadline for purchasing tickets in advance is January 12th. Please contact Family/Youth member Brenda McDade at 786-1545. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5.50 for youth (18 and under).

A collection will be taken on January 13th and 14th for the College of Our Lady of the Elms. For 68 years the college has served the people of the diocese in a special way by educating women who in turn enrich their local communities. With severe government cuts in financial aid, it is more

important than ever to help the college provide assistance to students.

How often have you promised yourself or your spouse that you would spend more time together? Make 1996 a year you keep that promise. A Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you make and keep that promise for that New Year's resolution to appreciate each other more.

For more information about the next Marriage Encounter Weekend on February 9th-11th, slated for Sacred Heart House in Easthampton, call Steve & Charlene Houghton at 774-5942 or Paul & Sue Plourd at 527-7717.

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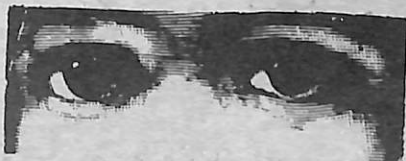
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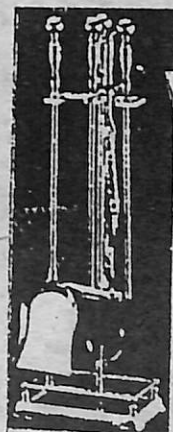
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## Church News - continued...

## Chicken Supper Scheduled At Valley Comm. Church

With the cooperation of "Mother Nature," Valley Community Church will be holding its next monthly chicken supper on Saturday, January 13th.

The menu will again feature: baked chicken, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, two hot vegetables, salad, cranberry sauce, olives, pickles, rolls with butter, and a beverage. And, once again, you have the difficult decision of choosing a dessert from our overloaded, homemade dessert table.

Continuous servings are available from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Because of the popularity of these suppers, reservations are strongly suggested by calling the church at 786-2445 or Shirley Taylor at 786-2576.

The cost is just \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 for children.

Should the supper again be cancelled because of weather, announcements can be heard on both the local TV and radio stations.

Valley Community Church is located high on a hilltop at 152 South Westfield Street.

## Operation Friendship Slates "Oldies Dance" For Sat., Jan. 27th

The Operation Friendship "Oldies Dance" will be held on Saturday, January 27th, at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills.

There will be music by DJ "Dancing Dave" from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight with door prizes and raffles. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door.

For more information or tickets, contact Kathy Cassanelli at 789-1255.

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## Agawam First Baptist Church Schedules Many Events For Next Week

The morning worship service begins at 9:30 a.m. this Sunday at First Baptist Church. Coffee and conversation in Davis Hall will follow, with classes for all ages available.

The Junior Youth will meet at 7:00 p.m. Their topic of discussion will be "Faithfulness."

On our calendar this week:

**Monday, January 15th** - Office closed.

**Tuesday, January 16th** - 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 6:30 p.m., Mr. & Mrs. Club Supper & Meeting.

**Wednesday, January 17th** - 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open.

**Thursday, January 18th** - 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 6:00 p.m., Take Out and Talk Out Discussion; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

On Sunday, January 21st, an AIDS awareness program will be presented by Richard Serrano, sponsored by The Caring Connection and the

Youth Groups. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

A spaghetti supper at 5:30 p.m. will precede the program meeting. For reservations for the supper, call the church office, 786-7300.

On February 1st at 6:00 p.m., a potluck supper will be held, followed by a presentation by "Captive Free," a troupe of college-age performers who provide a contemporary Christian ministry in song and drama. If you can't attend the supper, plan to attend the program which starts at 7:30 p.m.

Don't forget: FAMILY NIGHT is fast approaching. The date is February 11th. If you have a talent you want to share, contact Steve and Joyce Bailey before January 21st.

There will be a potluck supper preceding the talent presentations. Come and be a part of this fun night.

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Bancroft Imported Ham .....	\$2.99 Lb.
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## Spotlight On Business

### Agents Honored At George & Green



CHET KASPEREK (far right), manager of George & Green Real Estate, Inc., in Agawam, poses with three of the company's agents who were recently noted for their work. From left to right: John Duggan and Dorene Ayotte, GRI, the "Top Selling Agents" for the month of November; and Peg Pioggia, GRI, the "Top Listing Agent" for November. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

### Hi, Santa!!!



DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, Santa Claus was on hand to greet youngsters and young-at-heart customers at Woronoco Savings Bank in Feeding Hills. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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## Spotlight On Business - continued...

### Springfield IMA To Meet January 17th

The January 1996 technical meeting of the Springfield Chapter of the IMA (Institute of Management Accountants) will take place on Wednesday, January 17th, at Storowton Tavern on the Eastern States Grounds, 1305 Memorial Drive, West Springfield.

The meeting will run from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., and the speaker will be Jonathan Evans of Career Support Services. He will be discussing career satisfaction and how to market your skills with an effective resume.

The cost of the meeting is \$15 for members, and reservations can be made by contacting Peter Hanson, (413) 786-2355.

Non-members and guests are also welcome.

### Yoga Is Coming Back To Fitness First

Fitness First has brought back the popular relaxing exercise class, Yoga! The classes will be starting next week, January 15th, with Debbie Parelius.

The classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. The first week will be free. Thereafter, the fee for this class will be \$32 for members and \$40 for non-members.

Debbie Parelius comes to First First highly recommended as a Kripalu Yoga instructor and a member of the Kripalu Yoga Teachers Association. She brings with her 10 years of experience and is praised for bringing something special and different to class each time!

To sign up for classes, call Fitness First at 786-1460 or stop by the club on North Westfield Street.

### Fitness Director To Speak At Ag. Library

The Agawam Public Library, located at 750 Cooper St. in Agawam, announces that Rick Hersom of the Fitness First Health and Fitness Center of Feeding Hills will speak on Wednesday, January 17, 1996 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the library's community room.

The topic of Mr. Hersom's speech will be "The Benefits of Exercise and the Components of a Good Exercise Program."

Anyone interested in registering for the speech can stop by the library or call 789-1550.

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### Understanding Terms Dealing With Real Estate

Purchasing a home can be a confusing and complicated process. Throughout the process, home buyers will encounter a variety of unfamiliar real estate terms. There are several key terms associated with purchasing real estate that are helpful to know.

For example, many buyers confuse the terms **broker**, **salesperson** (sales associate), **real estate agent**, and **REALTOR**.

A **REALTOR** is a licensed real estate agent or broker who is a member of the National, State, and local Association of REALTORS. A broker is a properly licensed individual who serves as a special agent in the purchase and sale of real estate. A salesperson is a properly licensed individual employed or associated by written agreement by the broker as an independent contractor.

Before you select a real estate salesperson, you should know the types of agency representation available to you.

**Seller's Agent (Traditional Agent):** When a seller engages the services of a listing broker, the seller becomes the broker's client. This means that the broker (and its subagents) represent the seller exclusively and have no agency relationship with the buyer. The listing broker and subagents must put the seller's interest first and negotiate for the best price and terms for the seller, not the buyer.

**Buyer's Agent:** When a buyer engages the services of a broker, the buyer becomes the broker's client. This means the broker and its agents represent the buyer. The broker and its agents must put the buyer's interest first and negotiate for the best

price and terms for the buyer, not the seller.

**Disclosed Dual Agent:** When a broker works for both the buyer and the seller, the broker is considered a disclosed dual agent. The broker must obtain consent to act as a dual agent from both the buyer and seller and owes the buyer and seller the duty to deal with them fairly and honestly. In this type of agency relationship, the broker and its agents do not represent either the buyer or seller exclusively, and they cannot expect the broker's undivided loyalty.

\*\*\*

Once you decide to purchase, a salesperson or the designated broker representing the seller will prepare a **Purchase and Sales Contract** and present it to the seller along with your **earnest money** deposit. The Purchase and Sales Contract is the document through which the seller agrees to give possession and title of property to the buyer upon full payment of the purchase price and performance of agreed-upon conditions.

Usually, the earnest money is held in an **escrow** account. Escrow is the process by which money is held until the terms of the contract are fulfilled.

After the buyer and seller have signed the contract, the buyer must obtain a **mortgage note** by presenting the contract to a lender. The mortgage is the buyer's promise to pay the amount borrowed in addition to a stated interest rate over a specified period of time. A lender places a lien on the property, or **mortgage**, and this secures the mortgage note.

Once the contract has been signed and a mortgage note obtained, the buyer and seller must legally close the transaction. The **closing** is a meeting where the buyer, the seller, and their attorneys review, sign, and exchange the final documents. At the closing, the buyer receives the

appraisal report, an estimate of the property's value, with certification and supporting documents.

The buyer also receives the **title** and the **deed**. The title shows evidence of the buyer's ownership of the property while the deed legally transfers the title from the seller to the buyer. The final document that the buyer receives at closing is a title insurance policy, insurance against the loss of title if it's found to be imperfect.

Buyers should plan on at least six to eight weeks for typical real estate transactions to close. The process is difficult and, at times, intimidating. A good understanding of real estate terms, choosing the type of agency representation that fits your needs, and understanding the chronology of the transaction, however, will help you to be more confident when buying a home.

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## For Your Health

### Local Businesses Help Easter Seal Swimming



ED BORGATTI, JR. of E.B.'s Specialty Chicken Restaurant in Agawam, and Betty McCabe (right) of *Business Digest* in Feeding Hills receive info about the Easter Seal Swim Program from Susan Klamkin of Longmeadow, an Easter Seal VIP. Volunteers raising funds for Easter Seal Services that expand the independence of people with disabilities in Agawam will appear on the Easter Seal Telethon on Sunday, March 3rd on Channel 22.

### Cancer Support Group At Noble Hospital On January 18th

Noble Hospital's Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the hospital's Auditorium A, located on the ground floor of the hospital.

The monthly support group is open to individuals with cancer, and their families or support persons. Nancy Ferguson, M.Ed., is the group facilitator.

Registration is not required. For further information, please contact Ana Nunez, R.N., oncology at Noble Hospital, 568-2811, ext. 5698.

### Reducing Stress At Noble Hospital

Noble Hospital is sponsoring a program on reducing and managing stress. The program, which is open to the general public, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 p.m. *Reducing and Managing Stress* will take place in the hospital's Auditorium A.

Dawn Sanders Turgeon, RN, C, nurse manager of the hospital's Fowler Wing psychiatric unit, is presenting the program. Ms. Turgeon is certified in psychiatric and mental health nursing and has been practicing for more than 13 years. In addition, she has led many programs and workshops on stress.

The program is free but registration is requested. Please call Noble's HealthBEAT to register for the program, 568-BEAT.

### Stretching Clinic To Be Held At Fitness First

Fitness First in Feeding Hills will be holding a Stretching Clinic on Monday evenings, beginning January 15th, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Many athletes do not stretch out properly before and after exercising, regardless of the sport. This clinic is specifically designed to show people the proper way to stretch all muscles to get maximum performance and minimum injury!

Superb for skiers and hockey players. Whether you work out indoors or play outside, this clinic can only benefit you!

The clinic will run for three weeks. Cost for this program is \$15 per person. Pre-registration is recommended. You may call Fitness First at 786-1460 or drop by the club.

### La Leche League Has Support For Moms At Jan. 15th Meeting

Mothers who wish to breastfeed their babies will find encouragement and information at the West Springfield-Agawam La Leche League.

We meet on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, Westfield Street, West Springfield. Nursing babies are welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 1996.

The League offers mother-to-mother help at its monthly meetings based on the book *The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding*. The meeting discussions include the latest medical research, as well as personal experience. Other services include a lending library of books on childbirth, child care, breastfeeding, and nutrition.

For further information, call Jeanne (739-7923) or Chris (736-3238).

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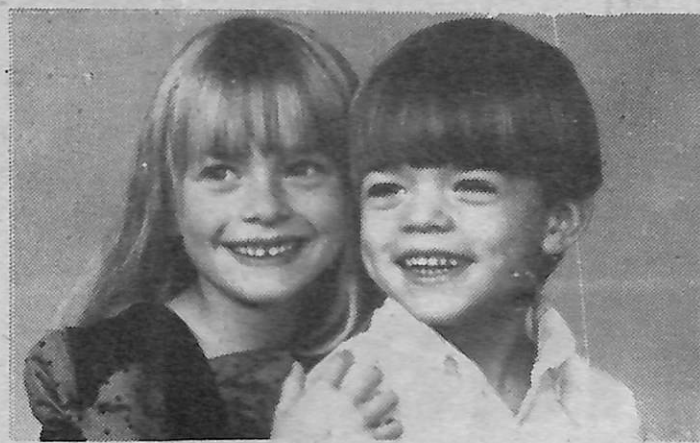
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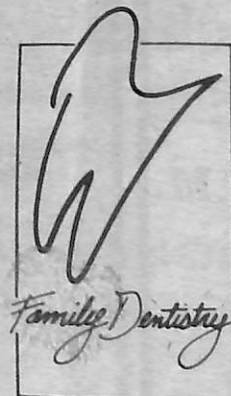
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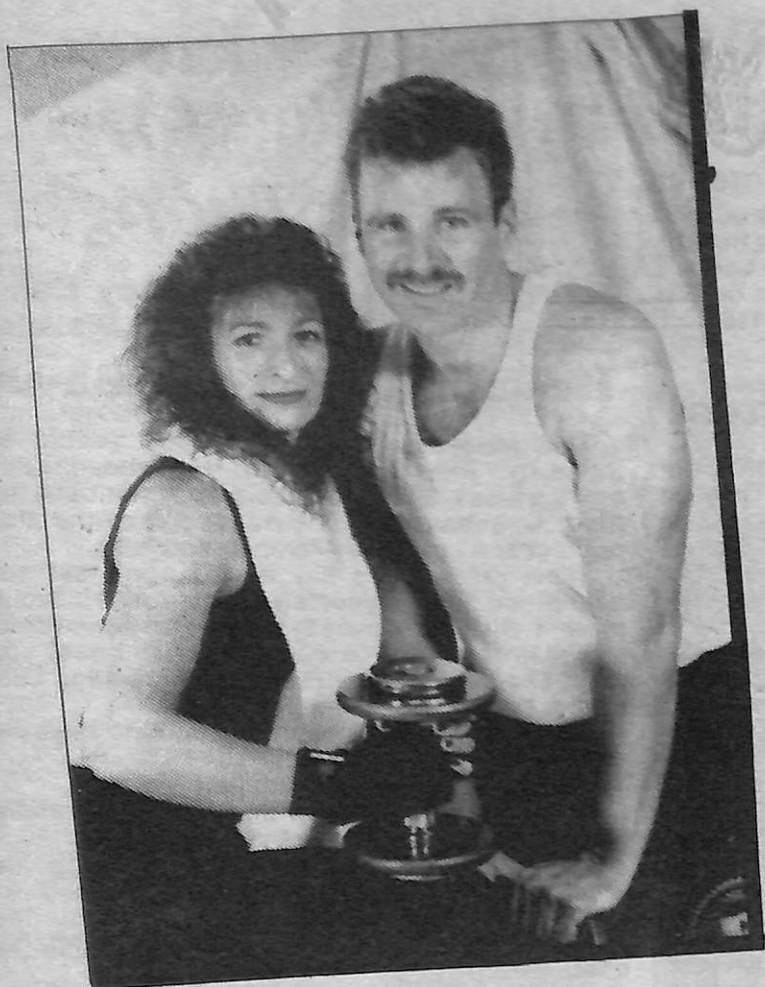


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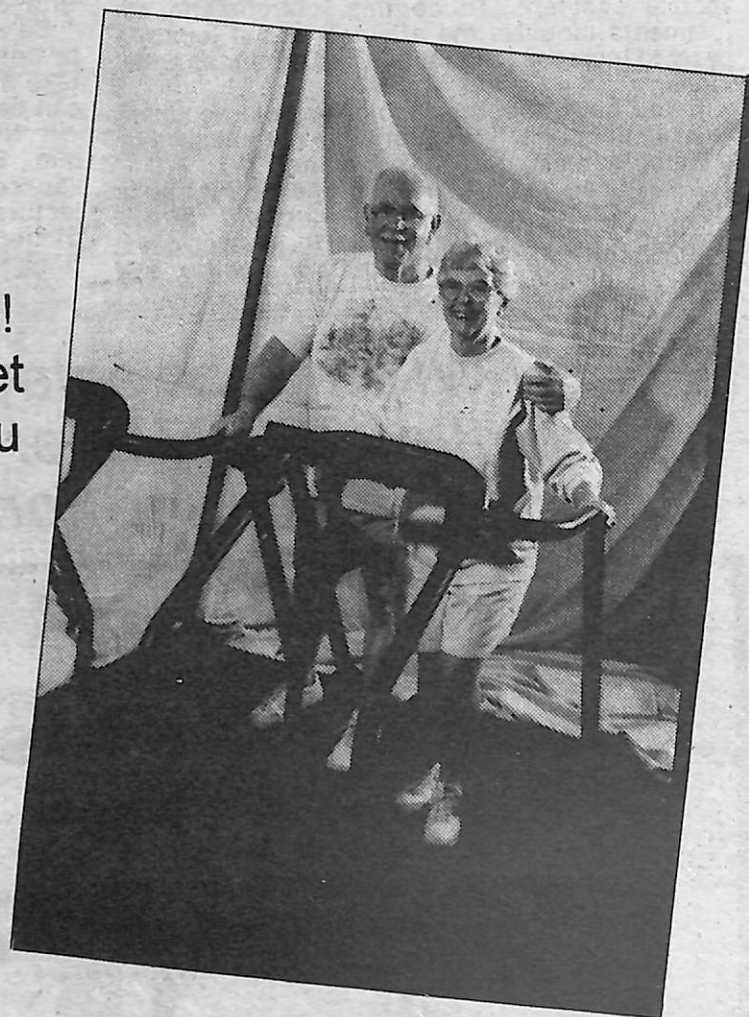
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## The Aftermath Of Motor Vehicle Accidents

Motor vehicle accidents, even minor fender-benders, can result in serious injuries. The deep tissues, including ligaments, discs, and joints, are frequently damaged as a result of impact.

Because this deep area does not receive much blood supply, it is often slow to heal. Patients often complain of a stiff neck the day after the injury, and often ignore it thinking it will go away. However, the pain and stiffness persist for weeks and months.

It is not uncommon for pain and stiffness to persist for 12 to 18 months after initial injury. It is imperative to get proper treatment in order for the correct healing process to occur.

When injury occurs, the body lays down connective tissues; if this connective tissue does not lay parallel to the muscle fibers, scar tissue and fibrous adhesions may occur. This is why some people comment, "My neck has never been the same since that injury" or "It's never been able to turn all the way since the accident." This is due to the fact that adhesion and scar tissue have formed.

To prevent this from happening, it's important to mobilize the individual joints. Just as modern techniques have found that after surgery motion is important right away to prevent scar tissue, motion is just as important in the spine after a motor vehicle accident. To do this, chiropractic adjustments mobilize the affected spinal joints in order to increase joint motion and decrease adhesions.

If you have been in a motor vehicle accident, even a minor one, it is important to be checked by a chiropractor to assess your spine.

**Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. She is available to answer questions from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday at 786-4820.**



## Living Well

**by Rick Hersom  
Fitness Director  
Fitness First Health  
and Fitness Center  
60 N. Westfield St., F.H.  
(413) 786-1460**

## How To Deal With Stress

Some stress in everyone's life is normal, but just because it is normal does not mean it is good for us. Health conditions related to stress include asthma, headaches, the common cold, depression, and sleeplessness (to name a few). Too much stress can even reduce the effectiveness of the immune system.

There are certain lifestyle choices that we make than can contribute unnecessarily to an increased stress level. Too much caffeine, too much alcohol, and poor choices in food (such as junk food) can all increase stress.

Take the following steps in order to help decrease your stress level:

1. Break the caffeine habit. Try decaffeinated drinks, and have herbal teas instead of coffee.
2. Cut down on your alcohol consumption. Limit yourself to only a few drinks a week.
3. Get plenty of exercise. Exercise can reduce muscle tension, produce a calming effect on your body and mind, and it can strengthen your body to be able to handle stress better.
4. Eat better, more natural foods that are not high in sugar or fat.
5. Get plenty of rest and relax. Take time out during the day to just close your eyes and take a deep breath. This sort of meditation will help you rejuvenate yourself and face the rest of the day with less stress.

So while stress is normal, too much stress can be detrimental to your health. Make sure that you take the steps to take care of the stress before it can become a problem in your life.

**\* NOTE: On Thursday, January 18th, at 7:00 p.m., Barbara Black, Physical Therapist and Advanced Cranial Sacral Therapist, will be giving a lecture and demonstration on the different types of meditation. Reservations are required (\$3 donation); please call 786-1460 to reserve a seat.**



## Food for Thought

**by Nancy Dell  
Registered Dietician**

## Becoming Soybean Savvy

The Japanese hold the world's record for longevity. And they eat more soybeans than anyone else—30 times more than Americans eat. Most Americans do not even recognize the most popular soy products—tempeh and tofu.

Some researchers say if you don't eat soybeans, you deprive yourself of one powerful youth protein. Studies show soy has the power to block enzymes that turn on cancer genes, boost your good cholesterol, regulate blood sugar, and build strong bones.

If you're not soy savvy, here's how to hide it in your diet:

- \* Mix your usual milk with half soy milk.
- \* Stir fry vegetables with a little tofu and/or tempeh (fermented soybeans).
- \* Use silkened tofu to make pudding and shakes.
- \* Look for prepackaged vegetarian products that contain textured vegetable protein like vegetarian chili.
- \* In baking recipes, use one-third cup of soy flour and two-thirds cup of wheat flour to make one cup of flour.
- \* Use roasted soy nuts as a snack. They are readily available in most grocery stores.
- \* Cook green soybeans as a vegetable.
- \* Eat imitation meat products—"hot dogs" and "hamburgers"—made primarily with soy; for example, frozen Boca burgers and Yves Veggie Wieners. Both taste and look remarkably like the real thing.

\* Use dried soybeans as you would other dried beans, such as navy beans. Put them in casseroles, stews and soups.

\* Substitute textured vegetable protein to replace part or all of the ground beef, pork or veal in meat loaf, casseroles, tacos, spaghetti sauce, and sloppy joes. TVP or TSP (textured soy protein), as it's called, comes in granular or chunk form, which when rehydrated resembles ground beef or stew meat.

The soybean is almost like an anti-aging pill that can slow the pace at which you age. The recommended daily dose—1 cup of soy milk or 4 oz. of tofu a day. Bon appetit.

**Nancy Dell, MS, is the Media Representative for the Western Mass. Dietetic Association and a Registered Dietitian with a private practice in Feeding Hills. She can be reached at (413) 786-2957.**

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# Arts

## AnnMarie's Dancers Perform In Albany-Berkshire's *Nutcracker*

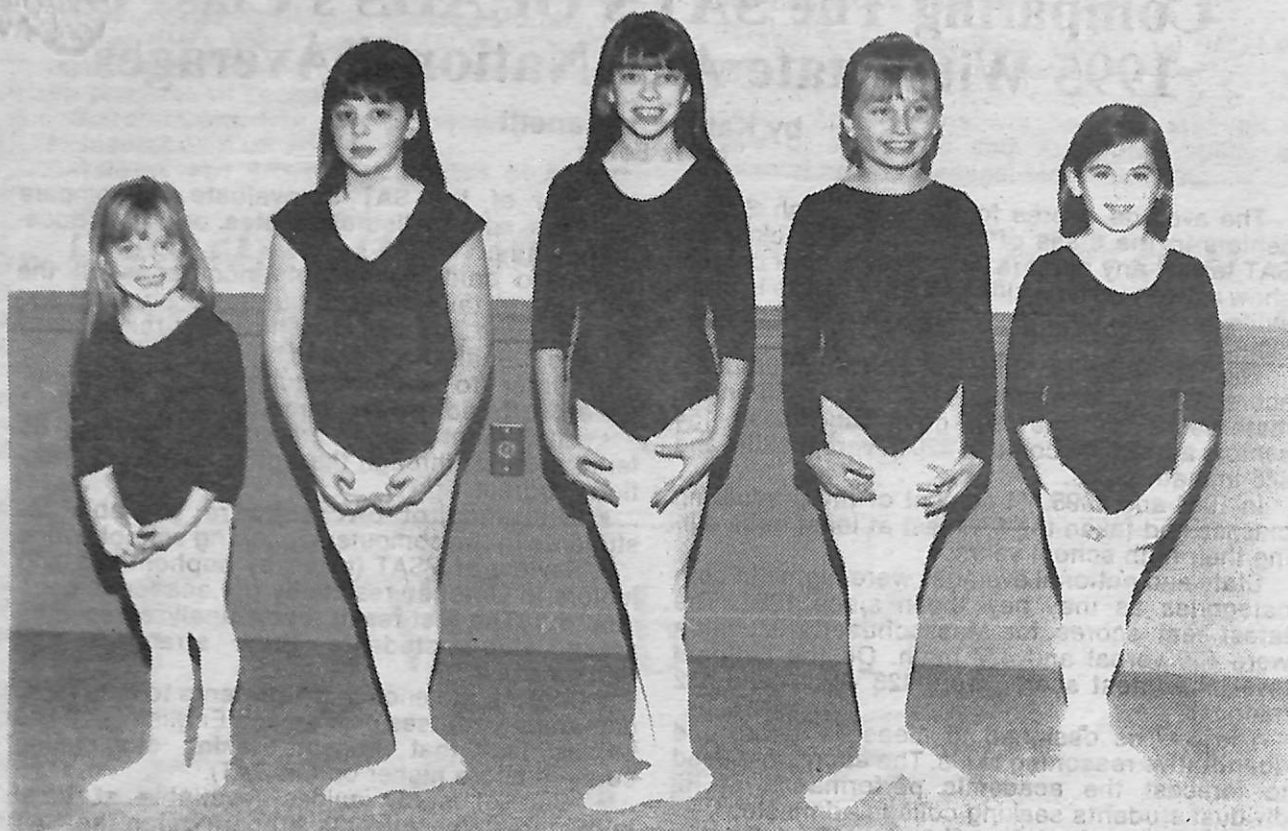
Five dancers from AnnMarie's Dance Place performed in the Albany-Berkshire Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Paramount Theater on December 10, 1995. The girls auditioned for roles last September and then practiced almost weekly for the performance.

Jodie Pfau, 10, performed the part of a Victorian child dancing in the party scene during the first act. This was Jodie's fourth year to be in *The Nutcracker*.

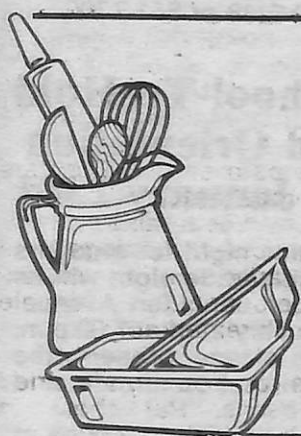
Kristen Pfau, 8, Lindsey Pfau, 6, and Jennifer Sacco, 8, all performed as Polichinelles (or clowns) dancing out from underneath the huge skirt of Mother Ginger. This was Kristen's second year in *The Nutcracker*, and Lindsey and Jennifer's first.

Nicole Woszczyna, 8, performed as an Angel. This was Nicole's second year performing in *The Nutcracker*.

All the girls have been dancing since the age of three. Their hard work and dedication was evident in this performance of *The Nutcracker*.



ANNMARIE'S DANCE PLACE PLUS members who performed in the Albany-Berkshire Ballet's performance of "The Nutcracker" included, from left - Lindsey Pfau, Kristen Pfau, Jodie Pfau, Nicole Woszczyna, and Jennifer Sacco. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



## Here's looking at Cooking

### Back-To-Basics Cooking

One of the easiest ways to cook chicken is to bake it. However, while this produces extremely tender meat, it often looks pale and unappetizing.

**Herb Baked Chicken** solves this problem by cooking the chicken in a flavorful sauce of naturally brewed Kikkoman Soy Sauce, vinegar, garlic and oregano. Only a naturally brewed soy sauce that has been aged for several months has the distinctive taste qualities to provide a savory balance and meaty richness, without overpowering the other ingredients.

To give some color and a bit of crispness to the skin, the chicken broils for 5 minutes right in the pan drippings before serving. Steamed broccoli and boiled potatoes are easy go-alongs to accompany this succulent baked chicken.

#### HERB BAKED CHICKEN

- 1/4 cup Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 large clove garlic, pressed
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves, crumbled
- 3 pounds frying chicken pieces

Combine soy sauce, vinegar, garlic and oregano; pour over chicken in large shallow baking pan. Turn chicken pieces over several times to coat both sides with sauce. Arrange pieces in single layer, skin side down.

Cover pan with aluminum foil; seal edges tightly. Bake in 375°F oven 20 minutes. Turn chicken pieces over; cover and bake 25 minutes longer, or until chicken is no longer pink in center. Discard foil; brush chicken with pan drippings.

Turn on broiler and place oven rack at top position for broiling. Broil chicken in pan drippings 5 minutes, or until skin is golden brown and crispy. Makes 4 servings.

Each serving: 283 calories, 15g fat, 109mg chols., 788mg sodium, 1g carb., 36g protein.

**FOR GLOSSY**  
copies of photos in this edition, please contact Jack Devine at 789-0053. Jack has all of the negatives. Thanks.

#### ACROSS

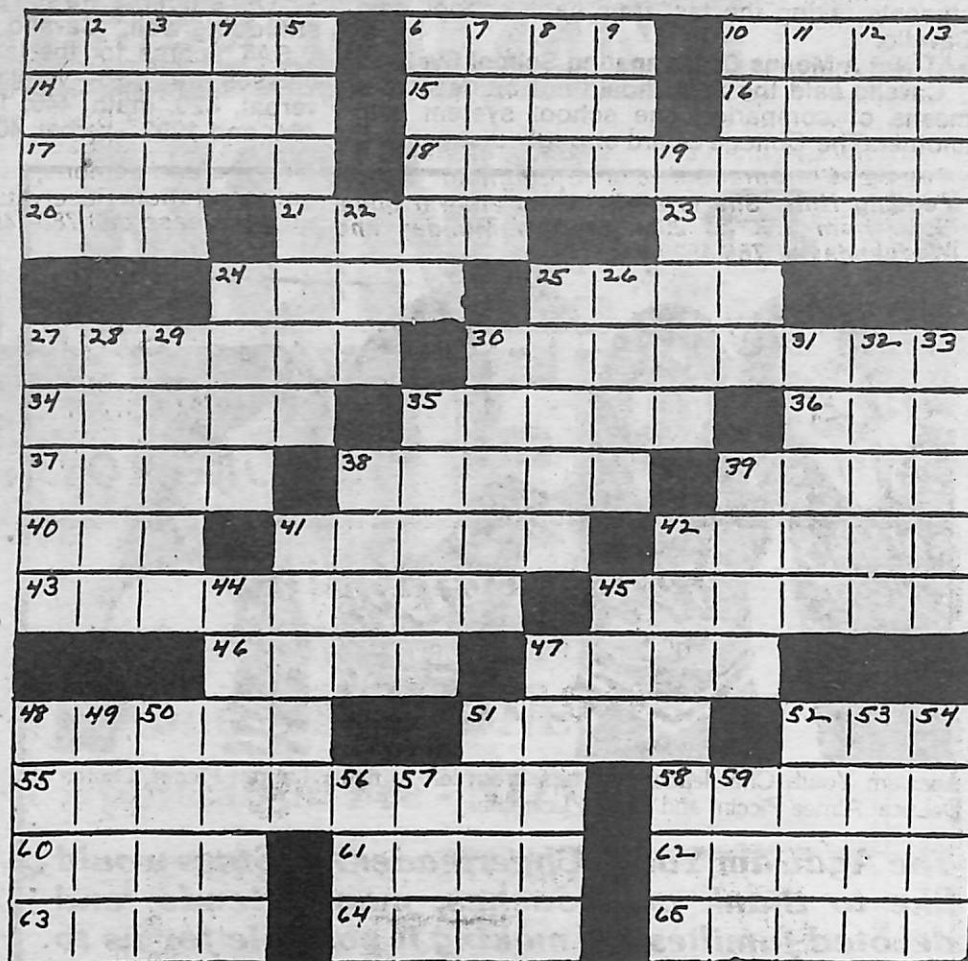
- 1 "Call me —"
- 6 Alcoholic drink
- 10 D-Day objective
- 14 Kitchen scent
- 15 Emanation
- 16 Cut back
- 17 Iranian coin
- 18 Tarzan and Jane's abode
- 20 Editor (abbr.)
- 21 Give up
- 23 Regions
- 24 Continental prefix
- 25 Stymie in chess
- 27 Type of milkshake
- 30 Item on a Texas flag
- 34 Act on stage
- 35 Cow domiciles
- 36 French soul
- 37 Lose strength
- 38 Short and to the point
- 39 Dueler's sword
- 40 Ripen
- 41 "— to live"
- 42 Hit the slopes
- 43 McMurtry's "Dove"
- 45 Sweet wine
- 46 Rob and Rogers
- 47 Some seasons
- 48 Rose perfume
- 51 Greek mountain
- 52 "Once — while"
- 55 Where hula dancers change?
- 58 Western show
- 60 Throat sound
- 61 Royal Italian family
- 62 Actress Barkin
- 63 Mimed
- 64 Broadway light
- 65 Notable Capra character

#### DOWN

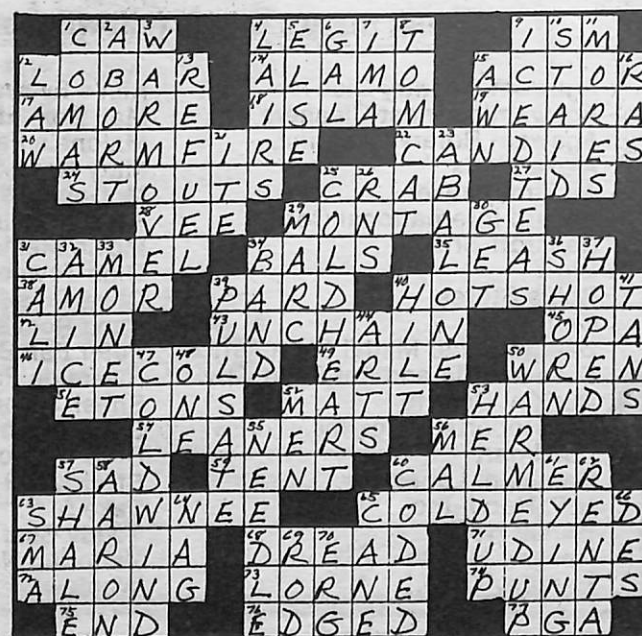
- 1 Constructed
- 2 Like the Sahara
- 3 "— sit under the apple tree..."
- 4 GP's org.
- 5 What's over a theater entrance
- 6 Math term
- 7 Injure
- 8 Dem follower
- 9 Abner's Daisy
- 10 Mail components
- 11 Test answer
- 12 A famous Mona
- 13 Homes in Soho
- 19 Abhors
- 22 Bean
- 24 Major follower
- 25 Famous code name
- 26 Actress Baxter
- 27 Silver (for example)
- 28 Pedro's friend
- 29 Sophia
- 30 Big in size
- 31 S.A. animal
- 32 Mid-East ruler
- 33 Stringy
- 35 Smiles broadly
- 38 Actor Donahue
- 39 "— out" (barely makes it)
- 41 Hebrew lyres
- 42 Clipped
- 44 Expunged
- 45 Streets (abbr.)
- 47 German steel city
- 48 Taj locale
- 49 Snare
- 50 Story
- 51 — Preminger
- 52 Doing nothing
- 53 In want word
- 54 Long time periods
- 56 Layer
- 57 Avail oneself
- 59 Bullring cheer

## MEET THE MASTER

— by Dick Mastroianni



### Last Week's Solution...







## Education

*Verbal Scores Decline, Math Scores Rise...*

### Comparing The SAT's Of AHS's Class Of 1995 With State And National Averages

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

The average scores for Agawam High School seniors in the class of 1995 who had taken the SAT test at any point in their high school careers show a dip in verbal skills and a slight rise in math skills compared to the previous year's graduating class.

The 170 seniors in the class of 1995 averaged a score of 414 on the verbal section and 458 on the math section. In the 1994 graduating class, 154 seniors averaged scores of 420 in verbal skills and 446 in math skills.

In 1994 and 1995, 74 percent of the graduating classes had taken the SAT test at least once during their high school years.

State and national averages were higher in both categories as they have been since 1992. The latest test scores for Massachusetts students were 430 verbal and 477 math. On the national level, the latest scores were 428 verbal and 482 math.

The SAT is designed to measure verbal and quantitative reasoning skills. The scores are used to forecast the academic performance of individual students seeking college admission.

AHS Acting Assistant Principal Paul Cavallo told the School Committee he prefers to compare test scores with previous years rather than with state and national scores. He said the test scores do not show the relationship between test performance and other factors, including the number of years students have studied a particular subject or the demographics or socioeconomic background of the students.

Also, the scores don't show the percentage of students taking the test from each school, said Cavallo.

#### **SAT Not A Means Of Comparing School Systems**

Cavallo said the SAT should not be used as a means of comparing one school system with another. The College Board strongly discourages

the use of the SAT to evaluate or compare teachers, school districts, states, or other educational units.

Cavallo said the school encourages all the students to take the test, but some students are not prepared because they have not taken many college preparatory classes.

In order to improve students' SAT scores, Cavallo offered five recommendations:

- Enrollment in SAT preparation courses offered at night through the Agawam Adult Education Program.
- Utilization of SAT software available for students in the computer lab during school hours.
- Review of PSAT (taken by sophomores and juniors in October) results by the academic coordinators. The test result report analyzes specific areas where students show strengths and weaknesses.
- Continue to encourage students to take more demanding courses in math and English (as it is a proven fact that students taking challenging courses score higher on the SAT).
- Use of study guides (available at local bookstores) by students preparing for the SAT test.

Cavallo said he would like to see the scores higher, "but we are staying pretty consistent."

Cavallo said colleges are relying less on test scores and more on student academic records during the admissions process.

Furthermore, Cavallo said many Agawam students are scoring high enough for acceptance at the top colleges.

"Our students are still getting into colleges and still doing well," Cavallo said.

SAT scores for the last four AHS graduating classes are: 1995—verbal, 414, math, 458; 1994—verbal, 420, math, 446; 1993—verbal, 415, math, 454; and 1992—verbal, 407, math, 452.

### Jill Robb Of Agawam Co-Chairs Project To Aid Battered Women's Shelter

Jill Robb of 29 Forge Street, Agawam, co-chaired a project through which nine Westfield State College students raised \$1,200 in goods and services donated to New Beginnings, a women's shelter in Westfield.

The students, members of a college class in Professional Communication, collected most of the donations door-to-door in residence halls, and the balance was solicited from local businesses and individuals.

Items fulfilling the shelter's "wish list" include a microwave oven, sporting goods, wagons, sweat suits, a radio, food supplies, art supplies, a picnic table, and children's videos.

This is the third consecutive year for the "Campus Cares" program through which the class, taught by Dr. Edwin Abar, undertakes a community service project. This year's project was co-chaired by senior mass communications majors Jill Robb of Agawam and Kevin Devine of Norwell, Massachusetts.

The class presented the items to New Beginnings administrators Brenda Barkham and Linda Koss before the December holidays. New Beginnings provides women with a retreat from domestic violence.

For more information about "Campus Cares," contact Dr. Abar at (413) 572-5238 or 562-7300.

### St. Adalbert's School To Hold Registration And Orientation Night On Tues., January 23rd

Registration and orientation night for students entering kindergarten through grade eight will be held at St. Adalbert's School, 90 Alden Avenue, Enfield, Connecticut, on January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

If you plan to register, please present the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, and immunization record.

For more information, call the school office at (203) 745-6135.



Agawam Youth Cheerleader All-Stars (from left to right): Lauren Piccin, Lauren DeLuca, Aimee Piccin, and Ashlee Lorraine.

**The Agawam Youth Cheerleader All-Stars would like to thank our coaches, many friends, and devoted families for making it possible for us to perform in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade.**

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## AHS Guidance...

by Judith Cohen  
Acting Director  
AHS Guidance Dept.

### The Issue Of SAT Scores

For parents of all students K-12—this article is important to read since learning is progressive. I am certain you read with interest the article that appeared on December 27th in the Union News. I know I did! Yes, our SAT scores at AHS are consistent with last year's scores. The average scores in verbal and math are lower than the state and national average.

Is that fact good? Of course not! But, we need to take the scores as a given and not dwell on them; instead, we should search for the reasons that they are low. May I suggest some?

1. Appropriate work is presented in classrooms. I have witnessed this. Yet, is this work fully assimilated by our students, digested and remembered? Unfortunately, often it is not. Many students memorize for the moment, then quickly forget the material ... making the facts ir-retrievable when SAT's are taken.

2. Many times homework is not thoroughly done and tests are not adequately prepared for, so knowledge is not gained.

3. At times, attention span is lacking and important information is missed.

4. Some students, through choice, are in general courses and have not learned the appropriate materials to do well on the SAT's, yet they take them anyway. Ponder this—would you try to swim to shore if you had passed only Beginners in swimming? I think not! Students who plan to attend a four-year school and those who want to pursue certain professions at a two-year school should take the SAT's. Others do not need to do so.

5. At times students do not take the PSAT and/or SAT seriously, so the resultant scores are not true reflections of their abilities. It is important to know that when all the SAT's are averaged together, AHS scores lower than the national average, BUT—and this is a BIG but!—some of our students did score in the 1200's and 1300's. These students also are products of AHS, have the same teachers and use the same books as students who scored lower. The difference? The higher-scoring students usually have better work ethics, usually have done more reading and have applied themselves assiduously to their test taking and school work.

As parents, please take an active interest in your children's studies. Periodically, check homework. Ask questions about school. Keep in touch with teachers. Through your interest, your youngsters will realize the importance of school to you and therefore to them.

There are SAT courses for Juniors and Seniors given privately, at AHS night school and on computers. Do call your child's guidance counselor if you have any questions.

...

For K-9th graders, it is important to learn thoroughly each year. Learning is an accumulative experience. By learning each year, students can be proactive and when SAT time looms forth, they will be able to approach the test with confidence, knowing that their scores should reflect their true ability.

Each child has great resources; let us together—teacher, parents, counselor, and student—make sure those resources are tapped so that each student may reach his/her potential.

#### HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Reminder: Financial Aid Night - January 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria; Sunday, January 14th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at STCC. Richard Neal will host a college financial aid seminar.

Warnings were issued before vacation. Grades close January 26th. Please call if you have any questions.

*For copies of his photos in this edition, call AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053. Jack has all the negatives and will be glad to help you...*

#### GUIDANCE BULLETIN

**College Acceptances: Congratulations!**  
John Higgins, University of New Hampshire;  
Selena Machla, Boston College; Courtney Limbert, Merrimack College; Andrea Le Blanc, Ashuntuck Community Tech College; Melissa Flemming, Assumption College; Stephanie Blza, Lyndon State; David Murphy, Salem State; Danielle LaBarre, UMaine; Melissa Murphy, Framingham State; Karla Zambelli, University of Rhode Island and Framingham State; Scott Litchfield, Florida Inst. of Technology.

**Scholarships:** See your counselor for more information.

**Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America**

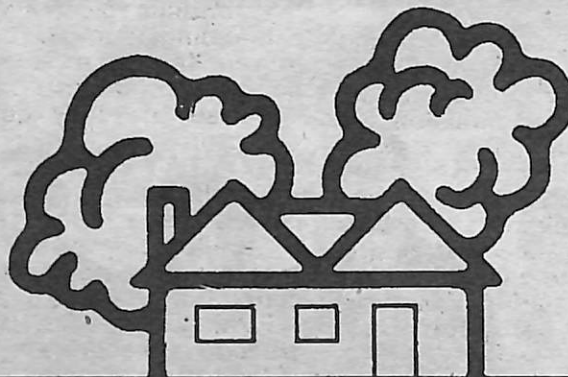
Open to any high school student who has asthma or significant allergies and who has attained a level of excellence in academic and/or extra-curricular activity. Deadline: January 31, 1996.

**Continental Cablevision C-Span \$100,000 National Scholarship Competition** - This is an essay contest. Essay Topic: What effect will C-Span programming have on your first vote?

**Mass. Elks Association Vocational Grant Program** - Open to Mass. students who plan to pursue a vocational/technical education after high school. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of academic and vocational ability and financial need. Deadline: March 1, 1996.

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## The 1995 Senior Semi-Formal Dance



AT AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL's Senior Semi-Formal Dance held at Crestview Country Club on December 29th: Dan Barber, Alisa Harvey, Brad Tilden, Courtney Limbert, Sean Martin, Kelly Shaw, Jason M. Reed, and Stacy Rennell. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



ALL SMILES AT THE Senior Semi-Formal - Jeff Cressotti, Melissa LaFlamme, Alisha P. Mattex, Jessica Sassarone, and Eric Bridges. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



READY TO ENJOY THEMSELVES at AHS's Senior Semi-Formal Dance were Ethan Baird, Jessica Nolan, Jason Devine, Laura Beauchemin, Tim Drenzek, and Christina LaValley. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



POSING FOR THE CAMERAS were Mark Anderson, Becky Wing, Mike McCormick, Nancy Cuccovia, Derek Parker, and Tracy Wandrei. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AN EVENING TO REMEMBER for T.J. Gontczaruk, Danielle Lussier, Al Albano, Theresa Brown, Michael Perry, and Kara Gaynor. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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## Celebrating Christmas At Phelps School



**BETH BOTTARO**, a teacher from the Twain School (an alternative high school), played an elf in a Christmas skit at Clark Elementary School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Twain School Students Share The Holidays With Clark Pupils

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

For the kindergartners and first graders at Clark School, it was a chance to enjoy the excitement of the holiday season as the eagerly anticipated day of a certain jolly gent's annual visit drew closer.

For Beth Bottaro's students from the Twain School, an alternative high school, it was a chance to fulfill a part of the community service component of their curriculum and have some fun by donning costumes and performing a zany Christmas skit for an appreciative audience.

All the children's favorite characters were on hand to lend their talents to a morning filled with singing and dancing. The Clark School audience joined to help Frosty, Rudolph, Dave and the Chipmunks, and a host of other guests celebrate the season and welcome the guest of honor, Santa Claus.

It was hard to tell who had the most fun as the children, their teachers, and Principal Sandra Howard joined Santa, his friends, and a big yellow Duck in a hand-clapping, dancing version of a duck walk. For the kids and their teachers, it was a wacky, quacky way to get ready for the grand finale: everyone's favorite participation dance, the Hoky Poky.

Ms. Bottaro said her students have a great time working on putting the show together and enjoy bringing the show to area elementary schools.

In addition to putting on entertainments for younger children, the Twain School students offer educational programs for elementary schools and "chair aerobics" at local senior centers.

"Clark School and Mrs. Howard have been very receptive to us," Ms. Bottaro said. "Most schools invite us back year after year, and the same with the senior centers we visit."

### Anti-Smoking Program In The Spring

Mrs. Howard said she is expecting Ms. Bottaro's students to return with an anti-smoking program for the second graders in the spring.

"The anti-smoking program is great because the kids are getting information from people who may have been smokers and the kids listen better to their own," Mrs. Howard said. "The older kids develop a great rapport with the younger students and this is such a critical health issue."

According to Ms. Bottaro, the community service curriculum for the ninth through 12th graders at the Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative's alternative high school gives her students an important boost in self-esteem.

"We think it's an important part of the curriculum to give something back," Ms. Bottaro said. "For my kids, it's good to see that they can help other people and feel good about themselves. My kids need to be seen as good kids who are able to do nice things for other people."



**PRIOR TO THE CHRISTMAS VACATION**, students donned Yuletide costumes and entertained their classmates with a holiday-themed production at Phelps Elementary School. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



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## Life Skills Class At AHS Collects Food



THE LIFE SKILLS CLASS taught by faculty member Elizabeth Prew at Agawam High School conducted a food drive to benefit the holiday baskets campaign sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club. The homerun at AHS that donated the most food is rewarded with a Dunkin' Donuts breakfast courtesy of the Junior Women's Club. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Christmas At Perry Lane Park School



TEACHERS AND CHILDREN at the Perry Lane Park preschool held a Christmas party to celebrate the season on Friday, December 22nd. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Santa Gives Gifts To Robinson Teachers



EVERY CHRISTMAS SEASON teachers at Robinson Park School receive gifts from Santa Claus (Mike Blake) courtesy of the school's PTO. Santa is pictured with PTO members on the last day of school before the holiday break, Friday, December 22nd. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

**Monday, January 15th:** No school (Martin Luther King Day).

**Tuesday, January 16th:** Steamed frankfort in roll, Boston baked beans, oven French fries, mustard, relish, catsup, chilled fruit cup, milk.

**Wednesday, January 17th:** Rotini with meatsauce, Italian bread & butter, seasoned broccoli cuts, pear macaroon, milk.

**Thursday, January 18th:** Oven-baked chicken nuggets (with honey or mayonnaise), seasoned peas & carrots, spiced applesauce, bread & butter, chocolate pudding with topping, milk.

**Friday, January 19th:** Oven-baked sea nuggets with catsup, oven potato wedges, bread & butter, jello with topping or fruit cup, milk.

\* **REMINDER:** Elementary lunch is \$1/per day or \$5/weekly.

(NOTE: Please remember to purchase your tickets on Mondays for the week. Personal checks are accepted, payable to: The Agawam School Lunch.)

*Please remember that our deadline for articles, press releases, etc., is every Tuesday at 12:00 noon. However, we appreciate any "early birds" who can bring in their items on Mondays.*

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## Sports

# AHS Girls' Hoop Back On Track After More Easy Victories

## Brownies Cream Knights To Go 3-2

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

Most of you are probably familiar with the NBC Sunday morning news program, *Meet The Press*. The Holyoke High girls' basketball team experienced something like that when they invaded Kibbe Gymnasium Tuesday night to play the Agawam High girls. Only the press they met wasn't a network operation.

This one was produced exclusively by the Brownies. And it was all bad news for the Purple Knights, as they were mauled by Agawam, 53-20.

The first half started out with Agawam in a full court press. They would stay in that defensive mode for the entire 16 minutes. Holyoke either wasn't ready for it or couldn't handle it. Whatever the reason, they were thrown completely off their game.

"That's our game this year," Agawam Coach Lou Conte smiled, as he savored his team's third straight win after two consecutive losses to start the season. "Our offense feeds off the defense."

Agawam's offensive strategy was also evident early on—they were going to bring the ball down low. That meant their front line would get some work. And they did. Freshman center Pia Bertone-Gross (six points, six rebounds) and senior Jaime Thomas (10 points, four rebounds) were constantly being sought out under the boards by the Brownie ball-handlers.

As a matter of fact, the first Agawam score—a nice, thread-the-needle feed from Kristen Patterson to Thomas cutting to the hole—set the tone for the afternoon.

The tone for the Purple Knights was a sour one. With 8:43 to go, they had seven turnovers and were down 17-8. Their guards, Sherin Kennedy and Wendy Burgos (and every guard combination they tried for that matter), had a tough time beating the Brownie press.

Many Brownies served as point girls in that defense: Patterson (three points, five rebounds), Thomas, Barbara Maloni (seven points, including 3-6 from the line), and Amber Conte (seven points, including a three). Their hands were as quick as their reflexes. The Knights had little chance to get any offense going.

The Brownie faithful in attendance got a slight scare with six minutes gone in the half. Patterson, nursing a hip pointer she suffered in the Comp game, aggravated it going for a loose ball. Conte sat her down.

Another part of Holyoke's problem was on the boards. Agawam out-rebounded them 16-9 in the first half, assuring that one shot was about all they were going to get on most trips to the money part of the floor.

## 30-Point Win Over Good Minnechaug Team Sparked By Maloni's 25 Points

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

If it weren't for but a few points, eight to be exact, the Agawam High girls' basketball team would be 4-0 at this stage in the young season. But, of course, they are not unbeaten. Their record is 2-2. The bright spot for the defending Valley Wheel champions and Division I semifinalists is that two of those wins have come in their last two games. It seems they're beginning to get well.

The latest victim was Minnechaug, 67-39, last Friday afternoon in Wilbraham. The Falcons are a pretty fair team. They were last year's Valley League champs and a Division I quarterfinalist. Coming into the contest, they were 3-2.

Minnechaug is a tall team. Sophomore forward Jill Danker is 5'10". Her sophomore linemate, Chrissy Girotti, is 5'9". Sophomore forward Sara Graveline is 5'8".

Agawam, while not tall, is a fast team. It showed early on as the Brownies went into a full court press and used their quickness to set up in a man defense. They were also double teaming the person with the ball, which showed up a glaring Falcon weakness—they had problems with that tactic.

The Brownie press paid off nicely. With 10:19 to play in the half, the locals led 14-6. Minnechaug had hit on only two of five field goals at that point.

### Brownie Defense Holds Danker To Nine

Brownie Coach Lou Conte had also taken great pains to deal with Minnechaug's Danker. She's a post-up player who was averaging 25 points an outing coming in. The Brownie defense held her to nine in this one. Only two of those points came from the field. She went 7-10 from the line for the others. She's a good rebounder (averaging six a game).

But the Brownie defenders, led by senior Jaime Thomas, senior Steph Biza, and freshman Pia Bertone-Gross continually boxed her out. Their efforts gave junior forward Sara Cote (6 points, 8 rebounds) control of the boards.

The Falcons were getting frustrated at the 8:40 mark. They were down 17-6. But they refused to abandon their high post game. The Brownies switched to a 2-1-2 zone. They put Bertone-Gross on Danker. Pia (4 points, 1 rebound) did a fine job on her.

Then, as it so often does, "old Mo," better known as momentum, began to shift the Falcon's way. A field goal here, a foul shot there, an Agawam miss or two, and suddenly, with 4:02 left, Minnechaug was right back in it, 19-14. For over four minutes, the Brownies scored one lonely hoop.

Conte called a time-out at that point to ask his kids if they were still in the building. His team listened. They are too good not to take some constructive criticism.

strutive criticism.

Danker hit two free throws at the 3:33 mark. Then the Brownies stepped it up again. They set picks all over the place in an attempt to get their shooters free. And with 1:44 left, they went up 23-19, mostly on guts alone.

With time running out, sophomore guard Amber Conte (6 points, 2 rebounds) hit one at the buzzer. Agawam owned a hard fought 27-20 lead at halftime.

The first period saw the Brownies shoot 11-24 from the field (45 percent average). Their performance from the stripe was 50 percent (4-8).

Minnechaug, on the other hand, could manage only 28 percent on 6 for 21 from the floor. They drained 7-11 from the line.

Each team had 13 turnovers.

The second half saw both teams come out pressing. And once again, the Falcons were determined to post up Danker.

### Locals Continue To Press

Agawam led, 31-26 at 12:56. They continued to press. Minnechaug made a decision to stay back on 'D' and let the Brownies come to them. And come they did. Within three minutes, AHS scored 10 points, capped off by a Barbara Maloni three at the 9:46 mark. Maloni, just a freshman, had a game high 25 points, including a three. She went 8-11 from the line and pulled down three boards. It was an impressive performance. Smiling, she explained it this way. "Courtney (Hyland) was hurting a bit because of the ankle she sprained against Chicopee Comp. So I got the ball a bit more and took advantage of the opportunity."

Agawam was now up, 41-28. And Minnechaug started to give them the outside shot as they switched into a 2-1-2 zone.

A Kristen Patterson (8 points including 2-6 from the line and 4 rebounds) drive at the 8:44 mark made it 45-28, Agawam. The sophomore star is a gamer. She played with an obvious limp because of a hip pointer she suffered in the win over Comp the day before.

Led by Maloni, Patterson, and Hyland (12 points including two three's and 3 rebounds), the Brownies led 52-32 with 6:53 remaining.

The Falcons just couldn't deal with the Brownies' quickness. They began to gun it up in desperation. The misses were as ugly as the shots they were taking.

Agawam pulled away for the 67-39 win.

In the second half, the Brownies hit 15 of 24 field goal attempts for a nice 62 percent average. They went 9-16 from the line and committed seven turnovers.

Minnechaug recorded 7-20 from the field and 4-8 at the stripe. They had nine turnovers.

SEE CREAM HOLYOKE - Page 32...

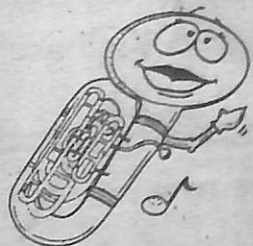
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## CREAM HOLYOKE - from Page 31...

The half ended with Agawam in command, 28-16. They shot 10-28 from the floor for a 35 percent average (not spectacular). But it was enough to get the job done. They visited the line 10 times and canned seven, which helped the cause. They only had six turnovers, which didn't hurt them.

The Purple Knights checked in with 7-17 from the field (41 percent) and 2-6 from the line. They were mortally wounded by 12 turnovers, courtesy of the Brownie press.

## Things Get Worse For Holyoke In The Second Half

If things could get any worse for Holyoke, they certainly did in the second half. Agawam put away the press. But at that point in the game, it didn't seem to make much difference. Patterson was back. And the stifling Agawam man-to-man defense was in high gear. Thus, the Knights had the luxury of bringing the ball down the floor without someone in their shirts, only to find someone right in their face when they got into Brownie territory.

For a while, at least, neither team seemed able to find the basket. But Agawam went up 31-16 on 3-6 foul shooting and a field goal with four minutes gone. Holyoke was completely dead in the water.

With 10:50 left, Bertone-Gross showed her strength in the low post as she took a feed and bulled her way up between two Holyoke defenders for a hoop that made it 35-16, Agawam. At 9:15, the Brownies went up 39-16.

Finally, at the 6:50 mark, Holyoke scored. They would hit only two field goals and no foul shots in the second half.

Finally, as time was running down and Conte was trying hard not to run it up, Agawam switched into a 1-2-2 zone. But the Purple Knights couldn't shoot over it. You had the feeling they just wanted to leave town as soon as possible.

With 3:20 left, the Brownies were up 45-20. They won it going away. The final again—53-20.

The Brownies went 11-29 (37 percent) from downtown in the second. An overall game field goal shooting performance of 36 percent won't set the world on fire. But it got the job done. They shot 3-6 from the line and committed six turnovers.

Speaking of fire, the Holyoke field goal performance was as cold as you can almost get at 2-18 (11 percent). A number like that is enough to send any coach stumbling for his favorite antacid. They had no free throws. And Agawam out-rebounded them in the second half, 20-5. There were no second chances for the Knights.

Agawam goes to 3-2. Holyoke is now 3-3. It was a non-league game for both teams.

Agawam's next game is Friday at home against Westfield.



AGAWAM HIGH GRADUATE Jen Lomelino (15) a senior, and Silvana Manes (background), also a senior, helped the AIC women's soccer team to its best finish since 1989 in the fall of 1995.

## AHS Graduates Shine In Soccer For American International Women's Varsity

Senior soccer standouts at Division II American International College this fall were 1992 Agawam High School graduates **Jen Lomelino** and **Silvana Manes** (both from Feeding Hills).

The Yellow Jackets posted an 11-6-1 mark, the most victories by the women's soccer program since the 1989 season. AIC qualified for the Northeast-10 playoffs for the second straight year and fifth time in school history. The 1995 season came to an end with a 2-0 loss to Quinnipiac.

Lomelino and Manes were both starters for veteran coach Peter Carando. Lomelino appeared in 15 games and started in 10 contests at midfield and tallied two goals and two assists for six points. Lomelino finished her career with 21 points on seven goals and seven assists. (She was out most of her sophomore season with injuries.)

Manes was a four-year starter and cracked the starting lineup midway through her freshman

season in 1992 and never left the starting lineup at AIC. Manes appeared in 67 games at AIC and started 60 in her career and did not miss a starting assignment as a junior and senior. Manes assisted on one goal in 18 starts in 1995 as she turned in yet another solid and consistent year.

While Lomelino and Manes closed out solid careers, freshman midfielder and AHS graduate **Brooke Hollister** of Feeding Hills was one of the top newcomers at midfield as she appeared in 14 contests for the women's soccer program at AIC.

Another AHS graduate, sophomore **Cory Chiancola** of Feeding Hills, was the top newcomer on the American International College golf team. Chiancola finished with a stroke average of 83.8 and shot a season-best 80 at the ECAC Qualifier as the Yellow Jackets placed sixth of 14 teams. Chiancola fired an 81 at the Worcester State Tourney as AIC placed second of three teams.

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# AHS Wrestlers Roll Over West Side

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

The Agawam High wrestling team is a lot like "Old Man River"; they just keep on rollin', keep on flowin' along. Last Saturday (January 6th), they traveled to West Springfield to meet their arch and ancient rivals—West Springfield. The Terriers, though game, ended up drowning in the current, 42-24, and AHS is now 2-0 at presstime.

Things started out the Brownies' way, as they often do in this sport. They got a win on a forfeit in the 103's, when West Side's Todd Whitehead couldn't make the weight. "I missed it by a half-pound," he said. His opponent would have been Agawam's tough sophomore, Kevin McKay, who was obviously disappointed.

West Side got its first points in the 112's. This match pitted Brownie sophomore Justin Aldrich against another sophomore, Mark Foresi.

Both were using counter moves and shooting whenever the opportunity presented itself. Foresi got more opportunities, or at least took advantage of the ones available to him, and led 9-6 at the end of the first two minutes.

Aldrich came out in the second and immediately tried for a pin. His efforts rang up a point. It was now 9-7, West Side, with 1:20 left in the period. He began to crawl all over the Terrier. That would be the Brownie's undoing. Foresi, feeling the top-side pressure, flipped Justin off and, as his man hit the mat, was able to get some leverage. He pinned him at the 3:15 mark.

The 119-pound class was up next. Agawam sent senior Mike Pessolano up against West Springfield's Manny Avgoustakis, also a senior. There was a bunch of experience going head-to-head in this one.

It showed from the get-go. Both wrestlers, aware of how dangerous they were to each other, began a cautious sparring session. They were looking for an opening, no matter how small, to make a move. The referee was looking for some action and called both of them for stalling.

Avgoustakis was first to respond to the wake-up call. He shot at Mike and took the Brownie down for four points. Pessolano managed to turn the tables on the Terrier and get the advantage. But Avgoustakis turned back that table with a nice reversal to score two more and take a 6-0 lead at the one of one. Then, it was 10-2, West Side, as period two ended.

The Terrier was clearly in the catbird seat as the third two minutes convened. Well aware of the caliber of the Agawam wrestlers and how well they're coached and their comeback capabilities, Avgoustakis kept Pessolano at a distance. It ended 13-8, West Side.

\*\*\*

Agawam sophomore Ryan Grealis would represent Agawam in the 125's. He would face West Side frosh John (brother of Manny) Avgoustakis.

Grealis went up 2-0 early on. At 1:02 of the first, Ryan went for the pinfall. Avgoustakis used up a great deal of energy then to keep his shoulders from kissing the mat. But Grealis did get two more points for his efforts to make it 4-0, Agawam. With 32 seconds left, Grealis was again going for a pin. The Terrier was again desperately fighting to keep from going totally horizontal. And he did, getting two points on an escape.

Though Grealis had the best of it for the bulk of the period, it was only 4-2, Agawam, when it ended.

The Brownie stormed out in the second and immediately tried for a pin, perhaps going on the assumption that his opponent's tank (after fighting off two pin attempts in the first two minutes) was running on empty.

Avgoustakis struggled mightily as the Brownie tried to sign, seal, and deliver him. But Grealis's instincts proved to be right on as he pinned the Terrier with 26 ticks left in the second period.

There was a lot of strategy in this match because Grealis usually wrestles at 130. "I decided to move him down for this one," Agawam Coach Phil Tomkiel explained. "That way I could move Brian Chechile (who usually wrestles at 125) up to the 130's. I felt we'd be more competitive against the guys we would face in both of those classes if I did that."

And the crowd saw Chechile—the talented, grizzled veteran senior—step onto the mat for his 130-pound battle against a tough customer, West Side junior Tony Sorcinelli.

Chechile came out and went into fast motion. He was all over the Terrier to the tune of a 5-0 lead with 1:02 left in the first. With 17 seconds left, Chechile went big time for the pin. Sorcinelli survived the onslaught but trailed 8-0 at the horn.

However, Sorcinelli is tough. He started to go to work in the second. He got one on an escape, two for riding time, and with 10 seconds left, got a takedown and almost pinned Chris. That effort was good enough to make it 9-8, Agawam, after two.

Chechile, the veteran that he is, shook off that second-period scare and came out on the offensive in the third. But Sorcinelli countered the

Brownie well enough to keep the score at 9-8 with 48 seconds left.

Then, with 34 seconds left and Chris with an advantage, Sorcinelli executed an escape to tie it at 9-9. The referee called for a two-minute overtime.

Chechile didn't take long to settle the issue. He won it with 40 seconds gone on a nice takedown. It ended 11-9, Agawam. Tomkiel's strategy of putting the experience of Chechile against a formidable foe had paid off.

The 135-pound class featured Agawam's Eric Johnson and West Side's Pat Kelly. Kelly could do little in this match. Johnson, a good defensive wrestler, handed the Terrier a 9-0 bagel.

It was Agawam's Jason Jean against West Springfield's Rob Peritz in the 140's. Jean, a junior who also plays soccer, had little trouble against the Terrier sophomore, pinning him with 1:06 left in the first.

\*\*\*

The 145's saw the Agawam pin parade roll on. Brownie junior Dan Dialessi, one of the more aggressive wrestlers in Western Mass, wrestled like he had a pressing appointment somewhere else, pinning his outgunned Terrier opponent with a nice cradle in one minute.

In the 152-pound class, the pin parade continued. Unfortunately, it was the Brownies who were bringing up the rear this time. Agawam junior Jeff Blews met Scott O'Connell, who was moving up in weight from the 145's.

Blews, much like he does on the football field, competed like a tiger. He came out of the blocks strong and intense and shot quickly for two points. Then he began riding O'Connell, keeping the Terrier from mounting any offense. O'Connell did get some offense going, though. He went for a pin, didn't get it, but got three points added onto his two for an escape. It was West Side, 5-3, after one.

O'Connell was up 7-2 in the second when Blews made a little mistake. The Terrier pinned him with 1:15 to go. "Jeff wrestled well," Tomkiel noted. "He just leaned the wrong way at the wrong time."

Agawam's John Herman went against West Side's Matt Frank in the 160's. He lost on a pin with 35 seconds to go in the second. The coach noted that Herman was wrestling at about 145 pounds.

Agawam was crowned the state champions in 1995. The two jewels in that crown were Andrew Ingham and Jon Jacobsen, now seniors and state champs in the 171- and 189-pound classes, respectively. They are the type of guys even the Brownie opponents want to see wrestle.

Ingham was up first against Terrier senior Bob Colbert. Colbert was outclassed in this one. Andrew was just too focused for him. The Brownie star was never in much trouble. He has all the moves and executed just about all of them, both on offense and defense.

Ingham won, 13-4, and at that point, Agawam led the match 34-21 in team points. Considering the two Brownies still to come, the fat lady didn't need to sing.

\*\*\*

Jacobsen strolled onto the mat. He had pinned all five opponents he's met in the young season. He would face senior Al Baron.

This one would be tougher than Jacobsen, or anyone else for that matter, could have imagined. Baron, wrestling almost exclusively in a defensive mode, managed to stay alive for the first period, which ended 0-0.

The second saw both wrestlers on their feet and going time and again out of bounds. With 25 seconds to go, Jacobsen scored two on a reverse. It stood at Agawam, 2-0, after two.

In the third, Baron seemed to be gaining confidence. Jacobsen, however, never loses his. No matter how hard the Terrier tried, Jacobsen coolly stood his ground and kept working. He scored two more points. The crowd wanted a pin, but it was a 4-0 win without one. Later Jacobsen would say, "The guy was strong. But he had no moves. One thing he managed to do was keep me from hitting my moves."

SEE WRESTLERS - Page 34...

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**YOUNG SPRINGFIELD FALCONS fans** Ronnie Dutton and Jamie Cullen of Agawam won a contest promoting the team. Ronnie won a round-trip ticket to anywhere in the USA for his efforts.

## Agawam Youths Show Their "Falcon Pride"

Recently, the Springfield Falcons hockey team held a contest to promote Falcon pride. Many enthusiastic fans turned out, but it was two Agawam youths who won the contest.

Congratulations to Ronnie Dutton and Jamie Cullen, who were voted most enthusiastic in showing their "Falcon pride"!

Ronnie is the son of Ronnie and Lynn Dutton of Fernwood Drive and a sixth grade student at Agawam Middle School. He finished first and was awarded one round-trip ticket to anywhere in the continental United States. Ronnie had on his Falcon shirt and hat, and had decked out his chair with lots of Falcon pictures.

Jamie is the daughter of Tom and Nancy Cullen of South Westfield Street and a third grade student at Granger Elementary School. She finished in second place and was awarded a Falcons warm-up suit. Jamie wore her Falcons jersey and cap, and had her face painted in Falcon colors.

Ronnie and Jamie attend many games with their families and really enjoy cheering the Falcons on. They think it would be great if more families in Agawam and the surrounding towns would support the Falcons, too.

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much more like Corky Stockham from the National Parts Peddler (with 1,000 new parts from the auction). Plus, the newest section is the popular oval track area featuring Brad LaFountaine, Northeast Auto/Troyer, the Southern Winston Cup Connection, parts from Jim Spencer, and 1,000 Busch Grand National North parts.

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## Agawam Athletic Asso. HOOP Standings

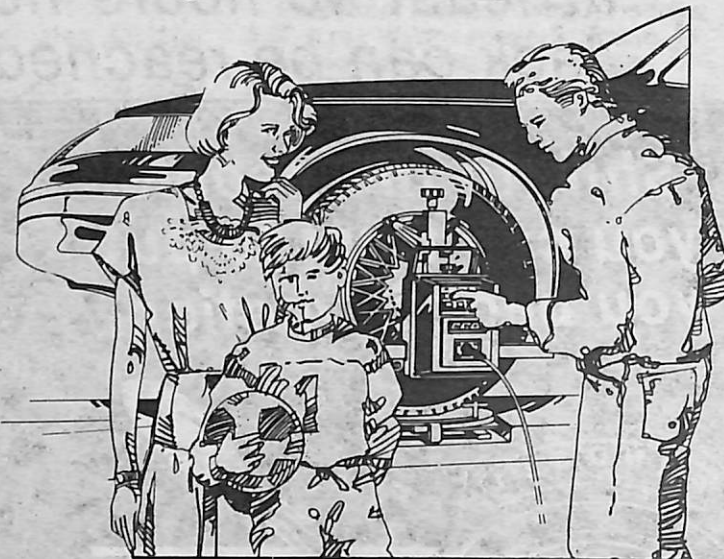
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Briggs & Starr Ins.	0	1	Movie Mart	1	0
Corner Deli	1	0	Provin Mt. Farms	0	1
E.B.'s Restaurant	0	1			
Fran's Restaurant	1	0	13-15 BOYS		
Valenti's Restaurant	1	0	Ag. Auto Sales	1	0
			Fran's Restaurant	0	1
10-12 BOYS NATIONAL			JMC Graphics	0	1
Agawam Opticians	0	1	Polish Club	0	1
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## Inconsistency Again Plaguing Brownies On The Ice

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

One thing you can say about the Agawam High School hockey team this season—they either win big or they lose big. Their two victories this season were 7-0 over Central and 7-3 over South Hadley. They were thrashed in a big way by Ludlow, 11-2, Minnechaug, 9-4, East Longmeadow, 7-1, and in their most recent encounter, 9-0 a week ago last Thursday by West Springfield.

West Side is the defending Western Mass. ice hockey champion. And while they came into the game at 1-2-1, indicating that even if they didn't have quite the bite they possessed last year, they were still capable of gumming people into submission as they demonstrated with the Brownies.

West Side can skate. They proved that from the get-go. With barely a minute gone, they started a juggernaut in the Brownie zone. The Agawam defense was in the initial stages of being overwhelmed. But one Brownie defender stood tall early on as defenseman Trevor Brown skated the puck out of his zone and started an Agawam offensive thrust.

Brown's efforts produced scoring opportunities for Dave Campbell and Rick Feeley. Both of their shots on goal were saved by Terrier tender Chris Atkins.

### Only A Brief Look

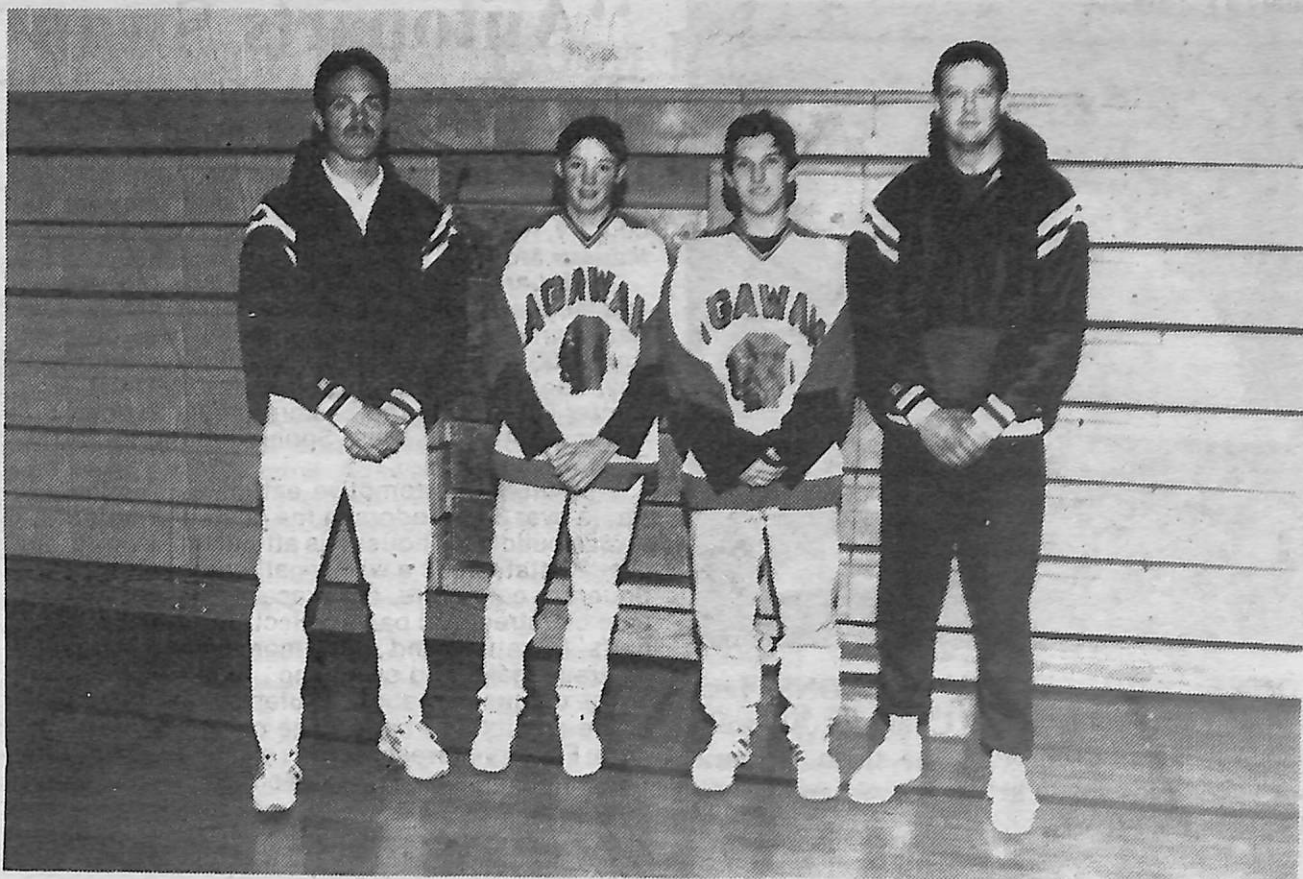
But it was obvious that Agawam was only going to get a brief look at the Terrier goal before the puck was cleared from their zone by their defense. That problem would haunt the Brownies all game long.

West Side drew blood at the 3:18 mark of the first. The score was a multi-man combination as defenseman Chris Newbrough got the first of his three goals of the afternoon.

That was another problem the Brownies would face. West Side got eight of its nine goals off a combination of three skaters - two assisting, one scoring. That meant the Terriers were passing to perfection and taking advantage of every Agawam defensive lapse.

The two Agawam goalies who played in this game, Mike Hodges and Derek Benton, couldn't really be blamed for letting so many shots whiz by them. West Side's skating prowess was just too much.

The Terriers scored again at the 5:07 mark. It was their only unassisted lamp-lighter of the



AGAWAM HIGH 1995-96 varsity captains Trevor Brown and Matt Radwanski are pictured with Assistant Coach John Cirelli (left) and Head Coach Fran Pycko. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

game. It came off the stick of Tom Moran, who caught the Brownies in the middle of a line change.

With 8:03 to go in the first, Newbrough had a semi-breakaway. Agawam goalie Mike Hodges made a nice save on a shot no more than five feet in front of the net.

But the Terriers did get their third goal of the game at the 7:24 mark. Brownie Coach Fran Pycko would observe later, "It's tough to get down by three goals so early. Then you have to press to try and get back in it. And we don't have the goal scorers to do that."

West Springfield's forward Gabe Guistina played some smart hockey that helped the Terrier goal production. He cruised behind the Agawam net time and again and fed teammates coming in on the Brownie net. That was one of the reasons so many of the West Side goals came from within the 10-foot perimeter, an area that is almost impossible for a goalie to defend by himself.

With 5:07 to go in the first, both teams got into a checking battle. Brown, Feeley, and Steve Gallant

were hitting every Terrier they could reach.

### West Side Ahead 4-0 After The First

But even putting the body on West Side wasn't going to be effective in this one. They hit paydirt at the 12:11 mark. Once again, it was a three man deal. That would be all the scoring in the first period. It stood at 4-0, West Springfield.

Agawam ended up with four shots on the Terrier net. West Springfield tested Mike 12 times.

West Side scored four more in the second period on nine shots. Agawam, only getting an opportunity here and there, managed four shots on Atkins.

The third period saw Derek Benton in net for the Brownies. West Side only managed one goal on four shots. But by then it was pretty obvious that Terrier Coach Gil Doe had called off his troops.

"The kids played as well as they could. We just have no goal scorers," Pycko would reiterate as the zamboni crawled from its garage to clean the ice. He also noted that West Side has three strong lines while his team has only two.

Aside from its 2-4 record, Agawam, at this writing, is 0-2 in the Berry Division.

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### Salmon River Yields Yet Another "Record" Fish

For the second time this year, a potential world-record fish has been caught in Oswego County waters.

Stephen Sawyer of Arlington, MA, reeled in a 17-pound, three-ounce steelhead in the Pineville region of the Salmon River on Friday, December 1st. Sawyer hooked the 34 1/4-inch trophy fish in the mouth using Berkley two-pound test tippet and a homemade chartreuse woolly-bugger with a red tail.

"I didn't know it was a record until I had it weighed," said Sawyer. "All I knew was I had a big fat fish and I wanted it mounted."

Sawyer said he has travelled to Oswego County to fish for the past 10 years. He makes about four trips during the fall each year.

Sawyer has 60 days to send the fish, line, and lure to the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) to verify the new record. IGFA's testing and verification process takes three to five months.

Earlier this year, a 24-pound, seven-ounce chinook salmon was caught on a six-pound tippet line in the Salmon River, setting a new world record for that line class.

"Two new world-record fish in less than four months proves beyond a doubt that the Salmon River fishery is alive and well," said Cathy Pokines, director of the Oswego County Department of Promotion and Tourism.

Other world-record fish caught in Oswego County included:

Coho salmon, all tackle and 30-pound line class, 33 pounds, four ounces, set in 1989 in the Salmon River; and coho salmon, fresh water, 20-pound line class, 30 pounds, 12 ounces, set in 1985 in the Salmon River.

Chinook salmon, fresh water fly fishing, two-pound test tippet, 22 pounds, nine ounces, set in 1989 in the Salmon River.

Brown trout, fresh water fly fishing, two-pound test tippet, 18 pounds, five ounces, set in 1992 in the Oswego River.

Rainbow, fresh water fly fishing, two-pound test tippet, 16 pounds, eight ounces, set in 1982 in the Salmon River.

\*\*\*

Congress has an EPA Bill AIMED AT GUTTING federal lands by turning over millions of acres to private citizens.

The United States' true wealth is in the millions of spectacular acres that belong to no one and everyone. Our public lands and the unprecedented mix of foresight, fortune, and democratic determination that allowed them are the envy of the world. So conservationists around the globe are staring in fascinated horror (like witnesses to a train wreck) at the great public lands giveaway under way in the U.S. Congress. The President, Bill Clinton, is the only hope the

public has to squash the Wild West land rush.

1 - The "Logging Without Laws" rider to last summer's budget bill is allowing timber cutters on public lands to bury trout streams under landslides of silt.

2 - The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is under attack once again by Big Oil that will send the oil straight to Japan.

3 - The nation's most spectacular rain forest in Alaska, the Tongass, may once again serve as a refuge for welfare loggers.

4 - Utah's peaceful red-rock wildlands are being turned over to developers and miners by the state's own congressional delegation.

5 - Wise Use militias are threatening violence to BLM and Forest Service officials throughout the West, from Montana's Bitterroot Valley to New Mexico's Catron County.

6 - Bills in the House and Senate would give BLM lands to the states so they could "dispense with it."

7 - Even though the annual appropriation for national parks is less than the cost of one submarine or bomber that even the Pentagon says is unnecessary, Congress wants to slash funding for parks and drop some out of the system.

In the recent conference budget (which has been shamefully kept quiet by the national media), we find that Congress plans to sell more than 100,000 acres of federal land holdings. This is not proposed to save money, for these lands will be sold to mining companies for less than \$5 an acre.

For the past 50 years, the conservation movement has made steady progress, starting with the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, the Endangered Species Act, the Habitat Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act. That is a half-century of real progress, making America a better place in which to live for man and for wildlife. But are we at the end of this half-century of progress? It certainly seems to be, if we can judge by the actions of Congress.

If environmentalists plus the rest of the citizens of this country do not rise up in righteous wrath, pending legislation will set us back more than 50 years. The attack comes on all fronts in a concerted effort to make the profit motive the only motive that counts.

The President and his veto is the only club to save this country from the unabashed greed of the Congress.

#### Primitive Firearms Season Nets 1,041

The preliminary results are in and according to a telephone survey of check stations conducted by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, hunters took 1,041 deer during the three-day primitive firearms season (December 18-20, 1995).

This number, although high, is not surprising. Deer were plentiful, and there was snow cover throughout the state.

The breakout of deer registered at check stations fell out as follows:

Northeast district - males, 36; females, 38; total, 74.

Southeast district - males, 52; females, 83; total, 135.

Central district - males, 134; females, 160; total, 294.

Connecticut Valley district - males, 118; females, 232; total, 350.

Western district - males, 74; females, 114; total, 118.

Totals - males, 414; females, 637; grand total, 1,041.

## Brownie Skiers Open Ski Season With 2nd Place Finish

Mother Nature almost crippled the ski industry last year with her relentless dumping of rain. This season has decided to bless us with a huge amount of the white stuff.

On January 4th, the Agawam High School boys' ski team competed in their first slalom format and found themselves second in the nine-team "B" Division. Sophomore **Ryan Progulski** was on fire with a time of 41.88, which placed him fifth within the division, and a 15th in the Pioneer Valley League.

Junior **Ben Weld** finished second on the team with a time of 44.03. Ben's time secured an unofficial sixth place in the league.

Following close behind Ben was senior captain **Andy Markowski**. Andy also had a solid run that placed him seventh in the division with a time of 44.13. Sophomore **Mike Savioli** rounded out the top four team times with an unofficial ninth place in the division. His time of 44.31 helped the Brownies secure a second place finish.

The improvements within the program have been great to witness from last year to the beginning of this season. The true sign of improvement is that Agawam placed fourth in the entire Pioneer Valley League, according to Coach Glenn Olson.

The Pioneer Valley League is made up of 23 teams throughout the Western Massachusetts area.

Freshman **Mike Defillipi** had a great first run of his high school varsity career with a time of 47.61, followed by senior **B.J. Cortis**.

The consistency throughout the program has been fantastic to witness. The junior varsity squad also added to the success with **Kevin Perreault**, **Dan Viens**, **Rick Haglund**, and **Rob Santaniello** combining their efforts to finish strong within their competition.

According to the coach, **Steve Charest** and **Sean Woodard** are going to be solid varsity times in the future of Agawam. Both Steve and Sean fell victim to the tricky slalom set at Berkshire East on Thursday.

## Swim Lessons At Fitness First Now Available To All

Fitness First, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, is holding swim lessons, which started January 6th and will run through March 2nd.

The lessons are as follows:

**Toddler Swim & Gym:** Mondays, 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

**Baby Swim & Gym:** Tuesdays, 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

**Preschool Swim & Gym:** Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

**Beginner Swim:** Wednesdays, 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Thursdays, 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

**Advanced Swim:** Wednesdays, 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Thursdays, 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:00 noon to 12:45 p.m.

**Baby Swim Only:** Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

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More information about asthma is available from your local American Lung Association.

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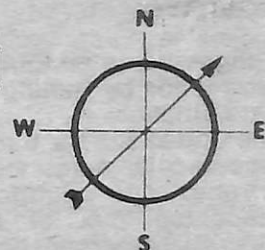
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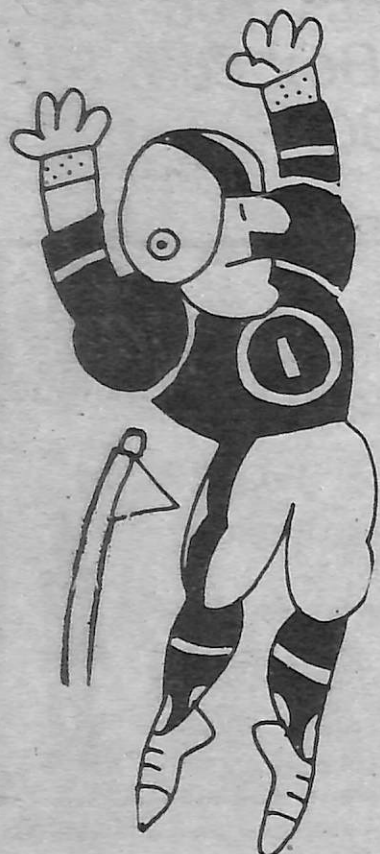
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Chicken Salad ..... \$8.95 Doz.  
Tuna Salad ..... \$8.95 Doz.  
Ham Salad ..... \$8.50 Doz.  
Egg Salad ..... \$7.95 Doz.

(Minimum Order — 3 Dozen)

### HOT & COLD COMPLIMENTS

Garden Salad (serves 10-12) ..... \$10.99  
Greek Salad (serves 10-12) ..... \$12.99  
Antipasto Salad (serves 10-12) ..... \$16.99  
Hot Cocktail Sausage ..... \$1.25/person  
Hot Cocktail Meatballs ..... \$1.25/person  
Large Tray of Lasagna ..... \$19.95

*Cheese Trays Available*

## Complete Mass Lottery

• Megabucks

• Mass Cash

• Mass Millions